PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 485 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
3 December 2008—18 December 2008

Chronology of The Parliamentary Debates

The Parliamentary History contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almons Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c. &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commenced with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

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House of Commons

Alphabetical List of Members

[Returned at the General Election, 5 May 2005]

A

Abbott, Diana Julie (Hackney, North and Stoke Newington)
Adams, Gerry (Belfast, West)
Afriyie, Adam (Windsor)
Ainger, Nicholas Richard (Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire)
Ainsworth, Peter Michael (East Surrey)
Ainsworth, Rt. Hon. Robert William (Coventry, North-East)
Alexander, Daniel Grian (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
Alexander, Douglas Garven (Paisley and Renfrewshire, South)
Allen, Graham William (Nottingham, North)
Amess, David Anthony Andrew (Southend, West)
Ancram, Rt. Hon. Michael Andrew (Devizes)
Anderson, David (Blaydon)
Anderson, Janet (Rossendale and Darwen)
Arbuthnot, Rt. Hon. James Norwich (North-East Hampshire)
Armstrong, Rt. Hon. Hilary Jane (North-West Durham)
Atkins, Charlotte Jean (Staffordshire, Moorlands)
Atkinson, Peter Landreth (Hexham)
Austin, Ian Christopher (Dudley, North)
Austin, John Eric (Erith and Thamesmead)

B

Bacon, Richard Michael (South Norfolk)
Bailey, Adrian Edward (West Bromwich, West)
Baird, Vera (Redcar)
Baker, Norman John (Lewes)
Baldry, Antony Brian (Banbury)
Balls, Edward Michael (Normanton)
Banks, Gordon Raymond (Ochil and South Perthshire)
Barker, Gregory Leonard George (Bexhill and Battle)
Barlow, Celia Anne (Hove)
Baron, John Charles (Billericay)
Barrett, John Andrew (Edinburgh, West)
Barron, Rt. Hon. Kevin John (Rother Valley)
Battle, Rt. Hon. John Dominic (Leeds, West)
Bayley, Hugh (City of York)
Beckett, Rt. Hon. Margaret Mary (Derby, South)
Begg, Anne (Aberdeen, South)
Beith, Rt. Hon. Alan James (Berwick-upon-Tweed)
Bell, Sir Stuart (Middlesbrough)
Bellingham, Henry Campbell (North-West Norfolk)
Benn, Rt. Hon. Hilary James (Leeds, Central)
Benton, Joseph Edward (Bootle)
Benyon, Richard Henry Ronald (Newbury)
Bercow, John Simon (Buckingham)
Beresford, Sir Alexander Paul (Mole Valley)
Berry, Roger Leslie (Kingswood)
Betts, Clive James Charles (Sheffield, Attercliffe)
Binley, Brian Arthur Roland (Northampton, South)
Blackman, Elizabeth Marion (Erewash)
Blackman-Woods, Roberta Carol (City of Durham)
Blair, Rt. Hon. Anthony Charles Lynton (Sedgefield) [*Resigned, June 2007*]
Blears, Hazel Anne (Salford)
Blizzard, Robert John (Waveney)
Blunkett, Rt. Hon. David (Sheffield, Brightside)
Blunt, Crispin Jeremy Rupert (Reigate)
Bone, Peter William (Wellingborough)
Borrow, David Stanley (South Ribble)
Boswell, Timothy Eric (Daventry)
Bottomley, Peter James (Worthing, West)
Bradshaw, Benjamin Peter James (Exeter)
Brady, Graham Stuart (Altrincham and Sale, West)
Brake, Thomas Anthony (Carshalton and Wallington)
Brazier, Julian William Hendy (Canterbury)
Breed, Colin Edward (South-East Cornwall)
Brennan, Kevin Denis (Cardiff, West)
Brokenshire, James Peter (Hornchurch)
Brooke, Annette Lesley (Mid-Dorset and North Poole)
Brown, Lyn Carol (West Ham)
Brown, Rt. Hon. James Gordon (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath)
Brown, Rt. Hon. Nicholas Hugh (Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend)
Brown, Russell Leslie (Dumfries and Galloway)
Browne, Desmond Henry (Kilmarnock and Loudon)
Browne, Jeremy Richard (Taunton)
Browning, Angela Frances (Tiverton and Honiton)
Bruce, Malcolm Gray (Gordon)
Bryant, Christopher John (Rhondda)
Buck, Karen Patricia (Regent's Park and Kensington, North)
Burden, Richard Haines (Birmingham, Northfield)
Burgon, Colin (Elmet)
Burnham, Andrew Murray (Leigh)
Burns, Simon Hugh McGuigan (West Chelmsford)
Burrowes, David John Barrington (Enfield, Southgate)
Burstow, Paul Kenneth (Sutton and Cheam)
Burt, Alistair James Hendrie (North-East Bedfordshire)
Burt, Lorely Jane (Solihull)
Butler, Dawn Petula (Brent, South)
Butterfill, Sir John Valentine (Bournemouth, West)
Byers, Rt. Hon. Stephen John (North Tyneside)
Byrne, Liam Dominic (Birmingham, Hodge Hill)

C

Cable, John Vincent (Twickenham)
Caborn, Rt. Hon. Richard George (Sheffield, Central)
Cairns, John David (Inverclyde)
Calton, Patsy (Cheadle) [*Died, May 2005*]
Cameron, David William Donald (Witney)
Campbell, Alan (Tynemouth)
Campbell, Gregory Lloyd (East Londonderry)
Campbell, Ronald (Blyth Valley)
Campbell, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Menzies (North-East Fife)
Carmichael, Alexander Morrison (Orkney and Shetland)
Carswell, John Douglas Wilson (Harwich)
Cash, William Nigel Paul (Stone)
Caton, Martin Phillip (Gower)
Cawsey, Ian Arthur (Brigg and Goole)
Challen, Colin Robert (Morley and Rothwell)
Chapman, James Keith (Wirral, South)

Chaytor, David Michael (Bury, North)
Chope, Christopher Robert (Christchurch)
Clapham, Michael (Barnsley, West and Penistone)
Clappison, William James (Hertsmere)
Clark, Gregory David (Tunbridge Wells)
Clark, Katy (North Ayrshire and Arran)
Clark, Paul Gordon (Gillingham)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Charles Rodway (Norwich, South)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Harry (Rushcliffe)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill)
Clegg, Nicholas William Peter (Sheffield, Hallam)
Clelland, David Gordon (Tyne Bridge)
Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey (Cotswold)
Clwyd, Rt. Hon. Ann (Cynon Valley)
Coaker, Vernon Rodney (Gedling)
Coffey, Ann (Stockport)
Cohen, Harry Michael (Leyton and Wanstead)
Connarty, Michael (Linlithgow and East Falkirk)
Conway, Derek Leslie (Old Bexley and Sidcup)
Cook, Francis (Stockton, North)
Cook, Rt. Hon. Robin (Livingston) [*Died, August 2005*]
Cooper, Rosemary Elizabeth (West Lancashire)
Cooper, Yvette (Pontefract and Castleford)
Corbyn, Jeremy Bernard (Islington, North)
Cormack, Sir Patrick Thomas (South Staffordshire) [*Delayed return, June 2005*]
Cousins, James MacKay (Newcastle upon Tyne, Central)
Cox, Charles Geoffrey (Torridge and West Devon)
Crabb, Stephen (Preseli Pembrokeshire)
Crausby, David Anthony (Bolton, North-East)
Creagh, Mary Helen (Wakefield)
Cruddas, Jonathon (Dagenham)
Cryer, Constance Ann (Keighley)
Cummings, John Scott (Easington)
Cunningham, James Dolan (Coventry, South)
Cunningham, Thomas Anthony (Workington)
Curry, Rt. Hon. David Maurice (Skipton and Ripon)
Curtis-Thomas, Claire (Crosby)

D

Darling, Rt. Hon. Alistair Maclean (Edinburgh, South-West)
Davey, Edward Jonathon (Kingston and Surbiton)
David, Wayne (Caerphilly)
Davidson, Ian Graham (Glasgow, South-West)
Davies, David Clifford (Blaenau Gwent) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Davies, David Thomas Charles (Monmouth)
Davies, John Quentin (Grantham and Stamford)
Davies, Philip Andrew (Shipley)
Davis, Rt. Hon. David Michael (Haltemprice and Howden) [*Resigned, June 2008; returned at by-election, July 2008*]
Dean, Janet Elizabeth Ann (Burton)
Denham, Rt. Hon. John Yorke (Southampton, Itchen)
Devine, James (Livingston) [*By-election, October 2005*]
Dhanda, Parmjit Singh (Gloucester)
Dismore, Andrew Hartley (Hendon)
Djanogly, Jonathan Simon (Huntingdon)
Dobbin, James (Heywood and Middleton)
Dobson, Rt. Hon. Frank Gordon (Holborn and St. Pancras)
Dodds, Nigel Alexander (Belfast, North)
Doherty, Pat (West Tyrone)
Donaldson, Jeffrey Mark (Lagan Valley)
Donohoe, Brian Harold (Central Ayrshire)
Doran, Frank (Aberdeen, North)
Dorrell, Rt. Hon. Stephen James (Charnwood)
Dorries, Nadine Vanessa (Mid-Bedfordshire)
Dowd, James Patrick (Lewisham, West)
Drew, David Elliott (Stroud)
Duddridge, James Philip (Rochford and Southend, East)
Duncan, Alan James Carter (Rutland and Melton)
Duncan Smith, Rt. Hon. George Iain (Chingford and Woodford Green)
Dunne, Philip Martin (Ludlow)
Dunwoody, Gwyneth Patricia (Crewe and Nantwich) [*Died, April 2008*]
Durkan, John Mark (Foyle)

E

Eagle, Angela (Wallasey)
Eagle, Maria (Liverpool, Garston)
Efford, Clive Stanley (Eltham)
Ellman, Louise Joyce (Liverpool, Riverside)
Ellwood, Tobias Martin (Bournemouth, East)
Engel, Natascha (North-East Derbyshire)
Ennis, Jeffrey (Barnsley, East and Mexborough)
Etherington, William (Sunderland, North)
Evans, Nigel Martin (Ribble Valley)
Evennett, David Anthony (Bexleyheath and Crayford)

F

Fabricant, Michael Louis David (Lichfield)
Fallon, Michael Cathel (Sevenoaks)
Farrelly, Christopher Paul (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Farron, Timothy James (Westmorland and Lonsdale)
Featherstone, Lynne Choona (Hornsey and Wood Green)
Field, Rt. Hon. Frank (Birkenhead)
Field, Mark Christopher (Cities of London and Westminster)
Fisher, Mark (Stoke-on-Trent, Central)
Fitzpatrick, James (Poplar and Canning Town)
Flello, Robert Charles Douglas (Stoke-on-Trent, South)
Flint, Caroline Louise (Don Valley)
Flynn, Paul Phillip (Newport West)
Follett, Daphne Barbara (Stevenage)
Forth, Rt. Hon. Eric (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*Died, May 2006*]
Foster, Donald Michael Ellison (Bath)
Foster, Michael Jabez (Hastings and Rye)
Foster, Michael John (Worcester)
Fox, Liam (Woodspring)
Francis, David Hywel (Aberavon)
Francois, Mark Gino (Rayleigh)
Fraser, Christopher James (South-West Norfolk)

G

Gale, Roger James (North Thanet)
Galloway, George (Bethnal Green and Bow)
Gapes, Michael John (Ilford, South)
Gardiner, Barry Strachan (Brent, North)
Garnier, Edward Henry (Harborough)
Gauke, David Michael (South-West Hertfordshire)
George, Andrew Henry (St. Ives)
George, Rt. Hon. Bruce Thomas (Walsall, South)
Gerrard, Neil Francis (Walthamstow)
Gibb, Nicolas John (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)
Gibson, Ian (Norwich, North)
Gidley, Sandra Julia (Romsey)
Gildernew, Michelle (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Gillan, Cheryl Elise Kendall (Chesham and Amersham)

Gilroy, Linda (Plymouth, Sutton)
Godsiff, Roger Duncan (Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath)
Goggins, Paul Gerard (Wythenshawe and Sale, East)
Goldsworthy, Julia Anne (Falmouth and Camborne)
Goodman, Helen Catherine (Bishop Auckland)
Goodman, Paul Alexander Cyril (Wycombe)
Goodwill, Robert (Scarborough and Whitby)
Gove, Michael Andrew (Surrey Heath)
Gray, James Whiteside (North Wiltshire)
Grayling, Christopher Stephen (Epsom and Ewell)
Green, Damian Howard (Ashford)
Greening, Justine (Putney)
Greenway, John Robert (Ryedale)
Grieve, Dominic Charles Roberts (Beaconsfield)
Griffith, Nia Rhiannon (Llanelli)
Griffiths, Nigel (Edinburgh, South)
Grogan, John Timothy (Selby)
Gummer, Rt. Hon. John Selwyn (Suffolk Coastal)
Gwynne, Andrew John (Denton and Reddish)

H

Hague, Rt. Hon. William Jefferson (Richmond, Yorks)
Hain, Rt. Hon. Peter Gerald (Neath)
Hall, Michael Thomas (Weaver Vale)
Hall, Patrick (Bedford)
Hamilton, David (Midlothian)
Hamilton, Fabian (Leeds, North-East)
Hammond, Philip (Runnymede and Weybridge)
Hammond, Stephen William (Wimbledon)
Hancock, Michael Thomas (Portsmouth, South)
Hands, Gregory William (Hammersmith and Fulham)
Hanson, David George (Delyn)
Harman, Rt. Hon. Harriet (Camberwell and Peckham)
Harper, Mark James (Forest of Dean)
Harris, Evan Leslie (Oxford, West and Abingdon)
Harris, Tom (Glasgow, South)
Harvey, Nicholas Barton (North Devon)
Haselhurst, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Gordon Barraclough (Saffron Walden)
Havard, David Stewart (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney)
Hayes, John Henry (South Holland and The Deepings)
Heal, Sylvia Lloyd (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)
Heald, Oliver (North-East Hertfordshire)
Healey, John (Wentworth)
Heath, David William St. John (Somerton and Frome)
Heathcoat-Amory, Rt. Hon. David Philip (Wells)
Hemming, John Alexander Melvin (Birmingham, Yardley)
Henderson, Douglas John (Newcastle upon Tyne, North)
Hendrick, Mark Phillip (Preston)
Hendry, Charles (Wealden)
Hepburn, Stephen (Jarrow)
Heppell, John (Nottingham, East)
Herbert, Nicholas Le Quesne (Arundel and South Downs)
Hermon, Lady Sylvia Eileen (North Down)
Hesford, Stephen (Wirral, West)
Hewitt, Rt. Hon. Patricia Hope (Leicester, West)
Heyes, David Alan (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Hill, Rt. Hon. Keith (Streatham)
Hillier, Meg (Hackney, South and Shoreditch)
Hoban, Mark Gerard (Fareham)
Hodge, Rt. Hon. Margaret Eve (Barking)
Hodgson, Sharon (Gateshead, East and Washington, West)
Hoey, Catharine Letitia (Vauxhall)
Hogg, Rt. Hon. Douglas Martin (Sleaford and North Hykeham)
Hollobone, Philip Thomas (Kettering)
Holloway, Adam James Harold (Gravesham)
Holmes, Paul Robert (Chesterfield)
Hood, James (Lanark and Hamilton, East)
Hoon, Rt. Hon. Geoffrey William (Ashfield)
Hope, Philip Ian (Corby)
Hopkins, Kelvin Peter (Luton, North)
Horam, John Rhodes (Orpington)
Horwood, Martin Charles (Cheltenham)
Hosie, Stewart (Dundee, East)
Howard, Rt. Hon. Michael (Folkestone and Hythe)
Howarth, David Ross (Cambridge)
Howarth, George Edward (Knowsley, North and Sefton, East)
Howarth, James Gerald Douglas (Aldershot)
Howell, John Michael (Henley) [*By-election, June 2008*]
Howells, Kim Scott (Pontypridd)
Hoyle, Lindsay Harvey (Chorley)
Hughes, Rt. Hon. Beverley June (Stretford and Urmston)
Hughes, Simon Henry Ward (North Southwark and Bermondsey)
Huhne, Christopher Murray Paul (Eastleigh)
Humble, Jovanka Joan (Blackpool, North and Fleetwood)
Hunt, Jeremy (South-West Surrey)
Hunter, Mark James (Cheadle) [*By-election, July 2005*]
Hurd, Nicholas Richard (Ruislip-Northwood)
Hutton, Rt. Hon. John Matthew Patrick (Barrow and Furness)

I

Iddon, Brian (Bolton, South-East)
Illsley, Eric Evlyn (Barnsley, Central)
Ingram, Rt. Hon. Adam (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)
Irranca-Davies, Ifor Huw (Ogmore)

J

Jack, Rt. Hon. John Michael (Fylde)
Jackson, Glenda May (Hampstead and Highgate)
Jackson, Stewart James (Peterborough)
James, Siân Catherine (Swansea, East)
Jenkin, Bernard Christison (North Essex)
Jenkins, Brian David (Tamworth)
Johnson, Rt. Hon. Alan Arthur (Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle)
Johnson, Alexander Boris (Henley) [*Resigned, June 2008*]
Johnson, Diana Ruth (Kingston upon Hull, North)
Jones, David Ian (Clwyd, West)
Jones, Helen Mary (Warrington, North)
Jones, Kevan David (North Durham)
Jones, Lynne Mary (Birmingham, Selly Oak)
Jones, Martyn David (Clwyd, South)
Jowell, Rt. Hon. Tessa Jane (Dulwich and West Norwood)
Joyce, Eric (Falkirk)

K

Kaufman, Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Bernard (Manchester, Gorton)
Kawczynski, Daniel Robert (Shrewsbury and Atcham)
Keeble, Sally Curtis (Northampton, North)
Keeley, Barbara Mary (Worsley)
Keen, Alan (Feltham and Heston)

Keen, Ann Lloyd (Brentford and Isleworth)
Keetch, Paul Stuart (Hereford)
Kelly, Rt. Hon. Ruth Maria (Bolton, West)
Kemp, Fraser (Houghton and Washington, East)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Charles Peter (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Jane Elizabeth (Liverpool, Wavertree)
Key, Simon Robert (Salisbury)
Khabra, Piara Singh (Ealing, Southall) [*Died, June 2007*]
Khan, Sadiq Aman (Tooting)
Kidney, David Neil (Stafford)
Kilfoyle, Peter (Liverpool, Walton)
Kirkbride, Julie (Bromsgrove)
Knight, Rt. Hon. Gregory (East Yorkshire)
Knight, Jim (South Dorset)
Kramer, Susan Veronica (Richmond Park)
Kumar, Ashok (Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland)

L

Ladyman, Stephen John (South Thanet)
Laing, Eleanor Fulton (Epping Forest)
Lait, Jacqueline Anne Harkness (Beckenham)
Lamb, Norman Peter (North Norfolk)
Lammy, David Lindon (Tottenham)
Lancaster, John Mark (North-East Milton Keynes)
Lansley, Andrew David (South Cambridgeshire)
Law, Peter John (Blaenau Gwent) [*Died, April 2006*]
Laws, David Anthony (Yeovil)
Laxton, Robert (Derby, North)
Lazarowicz, Marek Jerzy (Edinburgh, North and Leith)
Leech, John (Manchester, Withington)
Leigh, Edward Julian Egerton (Gainsborough)
Lepper, David (Brighton, Pavilion)
Letwin, Rt. Hon. Oliver (West Dorset)
Levitt, Tom (High Peak)
Lewis, Ivan (Bury, South)
Lewis, Julian Murray (New Forest, East)
Liddell-Grainger, Ian Richard (Bridgwater)
Lidington, David Roy (Aylesbury)
Lilley, Rt. Hon. Peter Bruce (Hitchin and Harpenden)
Linton, Martin (Battersea)
Lloyd, Anthony Joseph (Manchester, Central)
Llwyd, Elfyn (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy)
Lord, Sir Michael Nicholson (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
Loughton, Timothy Paul (East Worthing and Shoreham)
Love, Andrew Mcculloch (Edmonton)
Lucas, Ian Colin (Wrexham)
Luff, Peter James (Mid-Worcestershire)

M

McAvoy, Rt. Hon. Thomas McLaughlin (Rutherglen and Hamilton, West)
McCabe, Stephen James (Birmingham, Hall Green)
McCafferty, Christine (Calder Valley)
McCarthy, Kerry (Bristol, East)
McCarthy-Fry, Sarah Louise (Portsmouth, North)
McCartney, Rt. Hon. Ian (Makerfield)
McCrea, The Reverend Robert Thomas William (South Antrim)
McDonagh, Siobhain Ann (Mitcham and Morden)
McDonnell, Alasdair (Belfast, South)
McDonnell, John Martin (Hayes and Harlington)
MacDougall, John William (Glenrothes) [*Died, August 2008*]
McFadden, Patrick Bosco (Wolverhampton, South-East)
McFall, Rt. Hon. John (West Dunbartonshire)
McGovern, James (Dundee, West)
McGrady, Eddie (South Down)
McGuinness, Martin (Mid-Ulster)
McGuire, Anne (Stirling)
McIntosh, Anne Caroline Ballingall (Vale of York)
McIsaac, Shona (Cleethorpes)
Mackay, Rt. Hon. Andrew James (Bracknell)
McKechin, Ann (Glasgow, North)
McKenna, Rosemary (Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, East)
Mackinlay, Andrew (Thurrock)
Maclean, Rt. Hon. David John (Penrith and The Border)
McLoughlin, Patrick Allen (West Derbyshire)
MacNeil, Angus Brendan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar)
McNulty, Anthony James (Harrow, East)
MacShane, Denis (Rotherham)
Mactaggart, Fiona Margaret (Slough)
Mahmood, Khalid (Birmingham, Perry Barr)
Main, Anne Margaret (St. Albans)
Malik, Shahid (Dewsbury)
Malins, Humfrey Jonathan (Woking)
Mallaber, Judy (Amber Valley)
Mann, John (Bassetlaw)
Maples, John Cradock (Stratford-on-Avon)
Marris, Robert Howard (Wolverhampton, South-West)
Marsden, Gordon (Blackpool, South)
Marshall, David (Glasgow, East) [*Resigned, June 2008*]
Marshall-Andrews, Robert Graham (Medway)
Martin, Rt. Hon. Michael John (Glasgow, North-East)
Martlew, Eric Anthony (Carlisle)
Mason, John Fingland (Glasgow, East) [*By-election, July 2008*]
Mates, Rt. Hon. Michael John (East Hampshire)
Maude, Rt. Hon. Francis Anthony Aylmer (Horsham)
May, Rt. Hon. Theresa Mary (Maidenhead)
Meacher, Rt. Hon. Michael Hugh (Oldham, West and Royton)
Meale, Joseph Alan (Mansfield)
Mercer, Patrick John (Newark)
Merron, Gillian Joanna (Lincoln)
Michael, Rt. Hon. Alun Edward (Cardiff, South and Penarth)
Milburn, Rt. Hon. Alan (Darlington)
Miliband, David Wright (South Shields)
Miliband, Edward Samuel (Doncaster, North)
Miller, Andrew Peter (Ellesmere Port and Neston)
Miller, Maria Frances Lewis (Basingstoke)
Milton, Anne Frances (Guildford)
Mitchell, Andrew John Bower (Sutton Coldfield)
Mitchell, Austin Vernon (Great Grimsby)
Moffatt, Laura Jean (Crawley)
Mole, Christopher David (Ipswich)
Moon, Madeleine (Bridgend)
Moore, Michael Kevin (Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk)
Moran, Margaret (Luton, South)
Morden, Jessica Elizabeth (Newport, East)
Morgan, Julie (Cardiff, North)
Morley, Elliot Anthony (Scunthorpe)
Moss, Malcolm Douglas (North-East Cambridgeshire)
Mountford, Kali Carol Jean (Colne Valley)
Mudie, George Edward (Leeds, East)
Mulholland, Gregory Thomas (Leeds, North-West)
Mullin, Christopher John (Sunderland, South)
Mundell, David Gordon (Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale)
Munn, Margaret Patricia (Sheffield, Heeley)

Murphy, Conor Terence (Newry and Armagh)
Murphy, Denis (Wansbeck)
Murphy, Jim (East Renfrewshire)
Murphy, Rt. Hon. Paul Peter (Torfaen)
Murrison, Andrew William (Westbury)

N

Naysmith, John Douglas (Bristol, North-West)
Neill, Robert (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Newmark, Brooks (Braintree)
Norris, Dan (Wansdyke)

O

O'Brien, Michael (North Warwickshire)
O'Brien, Stephen Rothwell (Eddisbury)
O'Hara, Edward (Knowsley, South)
Oaten, Mark (Winchester)
Olner, William John (Nuneaton)
Öpik, Lembit (Montgomeryshire)
Osborne, George Gideon Oliver (Tatton)
Osborne, Sandra (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)
Ottaway, Richard Geoffrey James (Croydon, South)
Owen, Albert (Ynys Môn)

P

Paice, James Edward Thornton (South-East Cambridgeshire)
Paisley, The Reverend Ian Richard Kyle (North Antrim)
Palmer, Nicholas Douglas (Broxtowe)
Paterson, Owen William (North Shropshire)
Pearson, Ian Phares (Dudley, South)
Pelling, Andrew John (Croydon, Central)
Penning, Michael Alan (Hemel Hempstead)
Penrose, John David (Weston-Super-Mare)
Picking, Anne (East Lothian)
Pickles, Eric Jack (Brentwood and Ongar)
Plaskitt, James Andrew (Warwick and Leamington)
Pope, Gregory James (Hyndburn)
Pound, Stephen Pelham (Ealing, North)
Prentice, Bridget Theresa (Lewisham, East)
Prentice, Gordon (Pendle)
Prescott, Rt. Hon. John Leslie (Kingston upon Hull, East)
Price, Adam (Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr)
Primarolo, Rt. Hon. Dawn (Bristol, South)
Prisk, Mark (Hertford and Stortford)
Pritchard, Mark Andrew (The Wrekin)
Prosser, Gwynfor Mathews (Dover)
Pugh, John David (Southport)
Purchase, Kenneth (Wolverhampton, North-East)
Purnell, James Mark Dakin (Stalybridge and Hyde)

R

Rammell, William Ernest (Harlow)
Randall, Alexander John (Uxbridge)
Raynsford, Rt. Hon. Wyvill Richard Nicolls (Greenwich and Woolwich)
Redwood, Rt. Hon. John Alan (Wokingham)
Reed, Andrew John (Loughborough)
Reed, Jamieson Ronald (Copeland)
Reid, Alan (Argyll and Bute)
Reid, Rt. Hon. John (Airdrie and Shotts)
Rennie, Willie (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*By-election, February 2006*]
Rifkind, Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Leslie (Kensington and Chelsea)
Riordan, Linda (Halifax)
Robathan, Andrew Robert George (Blaby)
Robertson, Angus (Moray)
Robertson, Hugh Michael (Faversham and Mid Kent)
Robertson, John (Glasgow, North-West)
Robertson, Laurence Anthony (Tewkesbury)
Robinson, Geoffrey (Coventry, North-West)
Robinson, Iris (Strangford)
Robinson, Peter David (Belfast, East)
Rogerson, Daniel John (North Cornwall)
Rooney, Terrence Henry (Bradford, North)
Rosindell, Andrew Richard (Romford)
Rowen, Paul John (Rochdale)
Roy, Frank (Motherwell and Wishaw)
Roy, Lindsay (Glenrothes) [*By-election, November 2008*]
Ruane, Christopher Shaun (Vale of Clwyd)
Ruddock, Joan Mary (Lewisham, Deptford)
Ruffley, David Laurie (Bury St. Edmunds)
Russell, Christine Margaret (City of Chester)
Russell, Robert Edward (Colchester)
Ryan, Joan Marie (Enfield, North)

S

Salmond, Alex Elliot Anderson (Banff and Buchan)
Salter, Martin John (Reading, West)
Sanders, Adrian Mark (Torbay)
Sarwar, Mohammad (Glasgow, Central)
Scott, Lee (Ilford, North)
Seabeck, Alison Jane (Plymouth, Devonport)
Selous, Andrew Edmund Armstrong (South-West Bedfordshire)
Shapps, Grant V (Welwyn Hatfield)
Sharma, Virendra Kumar (Ealing, Southall) [*By-election, July 2007*]
Shaw, Jonathan Rowland (Chatham and Aylesford)
Sheerman, Barry John (Huddersfield)
Shepherd, Richard Charles Scrimgeour (Aldridge-Brownhills)
Sheridan, James (Paisley and Renfrewshire, North)
Short, Rt. Hon. Clare (Birmingham, Ladywood)
Simmonds, Mark Jonathan Mortlock (Boston and Skegness)
Simon, Siôn Llewelyn (Birmingham, Erdington)
Simpson, Alan John (Nottingham, South)
Simpson, David (Upper Bann)
Simpson, Keith Robert (Mid-Norfolk)
Singh, Marsha (Bradford, West)
Skinner, Dennis Edward (Bolsover)
Slaughter, Andrew Francis (Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Andrew David (Oxford, East)
Smith, Angela Christine (Sheffield, Hillsborough)
Smith, Angela Evans (Basildon)
Smith, Geraldine (Morecambe and Lunesdale)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Jacqueline Jill (Redditch)
Smith, John William Patrick (Vale of Glamorgan)
Smith, Sir Robert (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine)
Snelgrove, Anne Christine (South Swindon)
Soames, Arthur Nicholas Winston (Mid-Sussex)
Soulsby, Sir Peter Alfred (Leicester, South)
Southworth, Helen Mary (Warrington, South)
Spellar, Rt. Hon. John Francis (Warley)
Spelman, Caroline Alice (Meriden)
Spicer, Sir Michael William Hardy (West Worcestershire)
Spink, Robert Michael (Castle Point)

Spring, Richard John Grenville (West Suffolk)
Squire, Rachel Anne (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*Died, January 2006*]
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Sir John Paul (Tonbridge and Malling)
Starkey, Phyllis Margaret (Milton Keynes, South-West)
Steen, Anthony David (Totnes)
Stewart, Ian (Eccles)
Stoate, Howard Geoffrey Alvan (Dartford)
Strang, Rt. Hon. Gavin Steel (Edinburgh, East)
Straw, Rt. Hon. John Whitaker (Blackburn)
Streeter, Gary Nicholas (South-West Devon)
Stringer, Graham Eric (Manchester, Blackley)
Stuart, Gisela Gschaider (Birmingham, Edgbaston)
Stuart, Graham Charles (Beverley and Holderness)
Stunell, Andrew (Hazel Grove)
Sutcliffe, Gerald (Bradford, South)
Swayne, Desmond Angus (New Forest, West)
Swinson, Jo (East Dunbartonshire)
Swire, Hugo (East Devon)
Syms, Robert Andrew Raymond (Poole)

T

Tami, Mark Richard (Alyn and Deeside)
Tapsell, Sir Peter Hannay Bailey (Louth and Horncastle)
Taylor, Dari Jean (Stockton, South)
Taylor, David Leslie (North-West Leicestershire)
Taylor, Ian Colin (Esher and Walton)
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Taylor, Richard Thomas (Wyre Forest)
Teather, Sarah Louise (Brent, East)
Thomas, Gareth Richard (Harrow, West)
Thornberry, Emily (Islington, South and Finsbury)
Thurso, Viscount John Archibald (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross)
Timms, Stephen Creswell (East Ham)
Timpson, Edward (Crewe and Nantwich) [*By-election, May 2008*]
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Turner, Andrew John (Isle of Wight)
Turner, Desmond Stanley (Brighton, Kemptown)
Turner, Neil (Wigan)
Twigg, John Derek (Halton)
Tyrie, Andrew Guy (Chichester)

U

Ussher, Kitty (Burnley)

V

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Vis, Rudolf Jan (Finchley and Golders Green)

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Head of Pay and Reward Policy and Employee Relations—Reg Perry
Senior HR Manager—James Bigwood
Head of Corporate Learning and Diversity—Patricia Macaulay-Fraser
Organisational Development and Staff Review—Susan Craig

Trade Union Side—

Trade Union Side Administrators—Sandra Deakins, Denise Eltringham

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

Director of Financial Management—Christopher Ridley
Director of Procurement—Kevin Treeby
Deputy Director of Procurement—Sue Cunningham
Head of Financial Planning—Anthony Hindley
Financial Controller—Julia Routledge
Corporate Accountant—Debra Shirtcliffe
Systems Accountant—Colin Lewis

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

Director of Business Management and Development—Janet Rissen
Departmental Business Manager—Andy Vallins
Project Director—Colin Cornish
Head of HR and Development—Paul Mann

DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES

Director General—John Borley, CB, MA, CEng
Executive Officer—Martin Trott
Communications Officer—Liz Crotty
Director of Finance—Philip Collins
Director of Business Management—Vacancy
Head of Human Resources and DEO—Johan van den Broek

PARLIAMENTARY ESTATES DIRECTORATE

Parliamentary Director of Estates—Mel Barlex, BSc, MCR, MRICS, MBIFM
Deputy Director Projects—Vacancy
Head of Director's Office—John Patterson
Head of Maintenance Operations—Lester Benjamin, BEng, CEng, MCIBS
Head of Programme & Planning Management—Paul Squire, MBA, FIBC, CMC (Temporary)
Head of Fire, Safety & Environment—Andy Makepeace, OBE (Temporary)
Fire Safety Manager—David Kaye, GIFireE
Principal, Interior Design and Furnishing—Tori Reeve, CPGS

CATERING AND RETAIL SERVICES

Director of Catering and Retail Services—Sue Harrison
Executive Chef—Mark Hill
Operations Manager, Palace of Westminster—Robert Gibbs
Catering Manager, Terrace Complex—Abigail Richmond
Food & Beverage Manager—Christian Purser
Banqueting Manager—Jason Bonello
Assistant Catering Manager, Press Complex—Akua Mensah
Operations Manager, Outbuildings—Della Herd
Catering Manager, Portcullis House—Andrew Buckmaster
Catering Manager, 1 Parliament Street—James Ellis
Catering Manager, 7 Millbank—Nelly Chalil
Finance Manager—Caroline Young
Purchasing Manager—Antony Avella

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Head of Accommodation Services—James Robertson
Accommodation Manager—Fiona Channon
Head Office Keeper—Brendon Mulvihill
Senior Office Keepers—Doreen Irving, Noel Kirby, Les Stockwell
Cleaning Manager—Carol Hill
Events Team Leader—Jon Greenhalgh
Clock Tours Administrator—Amanda Leck
Postmaster—Mark Morrish

PARLIAMENTARY ICT SERVICE (PICT)

Director of PICT—Joan Miller
Director of Operations and Member Services—Matthew Taylor
Director of Resources—Elizabeth Honer
Director of Technology—Innis Montgomery
Director of Programmes and Project Management—Richard Ware
Customer Services Manager—Steve Judd
Members' Computing Officer (Commons)—Peter Beasley
Members' Computing Officer (Lords)—Loraine Midda
Telecommunications Manager—Caroline Robertson

OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery—Sir Suma Chakrabarti, KCB
Comptroller and Auditor General—Tim Burr, CB
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman—Ann Abraham

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 4 December 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the Government have submitted their economic evidence on the national minimum wage to the Low Pay Commission. The Commission will take this and all the other evidence received into account when preparing its next report on the minimum wage, which will be submitted to the Government by the end of February 2009.

The economic evidence addresses recent trends in economic and labour market performance, as well as the impact of the national minimum wage on pay, employment and younger workers.

Copies of the Government's economic evidence have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be posted on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at: www.berr.gov.uk.

The Government submitted their evidence on non-economic issues to the Commission in October.

EU Telecoms Council

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Today my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communication, Technology and Broadcasting made the following statement.

"Further to the written statement concerning the positions I intended to take at the Telecommunications Council, held on November 27th 2008, I am pleased to be able to report back on the main conclusions and topics of discussion.

The Telecommunications Council took place on the 27th November 2008 under the chair of the French Presidency. I represented the United Kingdom. As expected, the review of the EU regulatory framework from electronic communications networks and services was the focus of much of the discussion.

After introduction by the Presidency, Commissioner Reding gave a presentation of the Commission's views. While praising the Presidency for their efforts she criticised the Council text as making very little progress from earlier drafts and therefore she noted that the Commission could not agree to it. Of particular concern, she felt that the proposals on spectrum and on Commissioner powers did not go far enough. Following this, there was a full round exchange of views. The majority of member states endorsed the text that had been put forward by the Presidency; although concerns on certain aspects were noted by Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and Poland.

In my intervention I agreed with the compromise text for the Citizen's Directive and the European Telecoms authority. However I opposed, in line with Sweden, the text that was being put forward on the Better Regulation Directive, expressing particular concern with the proposals for functional separation, NGA access and the inclusion of references to ITU Radio Regulations in the proposals on spectrum.

As a result of the Commission's opposition, for this item to achieve political agreement member states had to give the proposal unanimous support. I was thus able, along with Sweden, to use this leverage to secure improvements to the text on functional separation and on access to networks. A break from the formal proceedings allowed detailed negotiations to take place, bilaterally between the attendees, to develop compromise text that everyone could live with. It was not though possible to reach agreement on the text associated with the ITU Radio Regulations.

In a second table round the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands abstained on the Better Regulation directive, and I—with Sweden—subsequently released a declaration explaining that on a number of issues—including the ITU Radio Regulations issue—we would be looking for further improvements to the package. As a result, even with the Commission having expressed a negative opinion, the framework review package did gain political agreement by the Council.

The lunch discussion concentrated on the digital dividend and on how member states were planning to allocate spectrum following the switchover to digital TV. During an interesting discussion, which both touched on member states experiences and the benefits of further coordination between countries, I took the opportunity of outlining our own plans, highlighting how we anticipated further opportunities for innovative wireless services to be introduced.

Following lunch, Council resumed with discussion on amending the regulations on roaming on public telephone networks. Commissioner Reding was pleased that previous Councils had given broad agreement to this item, though it was recognised that some states may wish to go further, especially in terms of data regulation, than the Commission had proposed. In the exchange of views that followed there was majority support for the proposal, though with a few member states expressing concern on the effect on investment and innovation it may have. I supported the amendment, saying that in essence the need for regulation represented a failure of responsible pricing by operators. However, I said that this measure should be a short term in nature and that there was no case for long term retail price controls.

The next item discussed was the second periodic review of the scope of universal services. This opened with the Commission presentation giving some statistics for broadband penetration and stressing the need for funding of universal services to be transparent and made within an appropriate framework.

Member States gave an overview of their own experiences on this issue. There was some concern expressed over possible market distortions being created and difficulties associated with trying to implement a unified approach in a diverse set of markets, however there was general support for the proposal that a debate on broadband as a universal service should take place. I stressed the importance of this topic and that as we move from narrow band to broadband we should get away from the stress on obligations and instead concentrate on universality. The major problem tends to be one of uptake of services rather than supply. I thus stressed the need to communicate the potential of broadband to the public. It will also, I stressed, be necessary for Europe to consider content provision and how content providers can utilise the Internet for profit.

The Commission concluded this item by summarising that the market alone will not be able to bring broadband to all consumers. Discussions on how this can be achieved will need to continue.

The final substantive item on the agenda concerned the Council Conclusions on future networks and the internet. This opened with an introduction delivered by the Presidency. Very few comments were made by member states and the conclusions were adopted unanimously with two small amendments, relating to IPV6 made by Poland.

No issues of substance were raised by attendees under 'any other business'."

TREASURY

HM Revenue and Customs (Reorganisation)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Today HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is publishing the last in a series of decisions about its future office structure. These latest decisions affect HMRC staff in offices outside its urban centres in the east, north west, south west, Yorkshire and the Humber, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

HMRC's regional review programme, which began in 2006, has been a massive and complex task. When HMRC was created in April 2005 from the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, it had 105,000 staff and two separate office networks with a total of 590 office buildings in well over 300 locations.

Throughout the review programme HMRC has consulted on its proposals with staff, trade unions and key external stakeholders including MPs to ensure that no relevant factors were overlooked during the decision-making process.

These have not been easy decisions. However, the overriding consideration has to be the Department's need to address new and challenging customer demands by restructuring its business and estate in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Enquiry centre services, where customers can get face to face advice, will continue to be provided at or nearby their current locations.

HMRC plans to withdraw from locations between now and 2011-12 as circumstances allow and at a pace which enables it to maintain and improve customer services.

Details of the decisions, impact assessments and equality impact assessments will be published on the HMRC website today and MPs will receive email confirmation of decisions relevant to their constituencies along with copies of related assessments.

Tax Law Rewrite Project

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am pleased to tell the House that today we are introducing the Corporation Tax Bill. This is the Tax Law Rewrite project's fifth Bill and is the first of two which will rewrite substantially the whole of the legislation relating to corporation tax. This Bill maintains the Tax Law Rewrite project's high standards in making tax legislation significantly easier to use. This would not have been possible without the expertise, time and commitment of all those involved in commenting on the provisions during consultation and I would like to thank them and the members of the Tax Law Rewrite project's Steering and Consultative Committees for their invaluable help in making the project's work such a success.

The Bill was published in draft on 22 February 2008 for consultation and a response document reporting on the outcome of that consultation was published on 22 August this year.

The Bill rewrites the charge to corporation tax and the main provisions used by companies in computing their income. Its scope was agreed with the project's Steering and Consultative Committees which together include the main representative bodies and other users and I am pleased for the wide support it has among the tax community. Like all previous Bills prepared by the project, it rewrites the law without changing its general effect. All the provisions have benefited from detailed consultation and the drafting style and structure is in line with that of the previous rewrite Bills.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Today I have presented to Parliament the revised school admissions code and school admission appeals code. Subject to the parliamentary procedure, these codes will come into force in February 2009.

This statement follows on from previous statements I have made to the House on improvements I have made to strengthen the statutory school admissions framework and place children and families at the heart of the process.

Through the Education and Skills Act 2008 we have strengthened the statutory admissions framework to ensure that all schools adopt fair and lawful admissions practices. Local authorities have an important role to monitor compliance with the code and are now required to report annually to the schools adjudicator on the fairness and legality of the admission arrangements for all schools in their area. As the independent enforcer of fair access to schools, schools adjudicators now have a wider remit to consider any admission arrangements that come to their attention in addition to any complaints received through an objection. The schools adjudicator will report annually to the Secretary of State on how fair access is being achieved locally.

Following extensive consultation throughout the summer on a number of proposals to improve the application and allocation process for parents and further strengthen the admission system so that it works for all children, I have revised both codes to achieve a better, fairer system for all families. The revised codes:

> place a duty on admission authorities to engage with parents and the wider community when setting their admission arrangements, in order to meet the needs of their local area;
>
> improve the application and allocation process so that parents will only ever need to apply for a school place to the local authority in which they live;
>
> prescribe national closing dates for primary and secondary applications; helping parents by creating a simpler more uniform system;
>
> improve the information parents receive on the admissions process, so they are fully engaged and informed; and
>
> make improvements to Admission Forums so they are representative of parents and the local area, and consider the fairness of admission policies for that area.

The new provisions in the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the revised codes I have laid before Parliament today will help ensure that every parent has a fair chance of getting their child a place at a school of their choice, and that no parent or child will be disadvantaged by unfair admission arrangements.

In addition to presenting the revised codes to the House, I am pleased to announce today the appointment of a new chief schools adjudicator, following the retirement of Sir Philip Hunter at the end of the year. Ian Craig will take up post from April 2009 with Dr. Elizabeth Passmore acting as interim chief schools adjudicator until this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sir Philip Hunter for all his hard work in ensuring that schools and local authorities comply with the mandatory provisions set out in the school admissions code, to help achieve fair access for all families.

I have placed a copy of the revised school admissions code and the school admission appeals code in the Libraries of both Houses.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Funding for Elite Sport

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I wish to update the House on a revised funding package to prepare our Olympic and Paralympic athletes in preparation for London 2012.

In the 2006 Budget statement the Government announced a £600 million package for the remaining three years of the Beijing cycle and for the London cycle, comprising £200 million of Exchequer funding matched by £100 million of private sector investment, and supported by £300 million of lottery investment.

This represents a record level of investment for the UK's Olympic and Paralympic athletes and helped secure the best British Olympic performance in a hundred years.

Today we are announcing an enhanced public sector commitment for the London cycle that will allow us to build on this momentum.

Public funding allocation for the London cycle

A total of £550 million of public funds—an additional £50 million—has been allocated to UK Sport to fund its elite programme. This consists of additional Exchequer funding of £29 million to UK Sport over the four years to 2012; plus a projected uplift in lottery income of £21 million.

This means that for the London cycle the elite sport system will receive the highest level of public funding ever made available over a four-year Olympic/Paralympic cycle—an increase over the Beijing cycle and an unprecedented package of support for elite athletes.

Private sector funding: Medal hopes scheme

Alongside the Exchequer and lottery investment, the 2006 Budget also set a challenge to British business to support our athletes. Funding for elite sport has moved from lottery money for Sydney and Athens, to Exchequer and lottery money for Beijing, and now Exchequer, lottery and private money for London. I believe this mixed economy funding for elite sport is the right long-term approach—and similar to the way excellence in arts is funded by my department. Alongside Exchequer and lottery funding, the Government wish to see the establishment of a third fundraising stream from the private sector as a permanent legacy of the London games, using the wave of interest that comes with our home games to establish this.

The new funding announced is the limit of public investment in Olympic and Paralympic sport. Raising private funds is challenging in the current economic conditions, but British business has a great track record of investing in sport.

Since the summer we have worked with Fast Track Ltd and UK Sport to develop a dedicated sponsorship brand called "Medal Hopes". This will be the only official way to sponsor athletes on the UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme and directly influence the country's chances of sporting success at World Championship Games and Commonwealth Games as well as the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Medal Hopes brand will support a range of schemes giving national, regional and local companies and individuals the opportunity to be a highly visible part of supporting athletes on the international sporting stage.

This work is now moving to a new phase of delivery. We will be working intensively over the next few months with national governing bodies, athletes and sports partners in preparation for the launch of this major fundraising drive to help secure the remaining £50 million from the private sector. In doing so, we have put in place a new partnership with Government: UK Sport will lead on the development of Medal Hopes, utilising its strong relationships with national governing bodies and athletes working with Fast-Track and drawing on the expertise and advice from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). I will be seeking regular updates from all partners.

UK Sport allocations to national governing bodies

The decision on how this public and private funding is allocated to each of our Olympic and Paralympic sports, and the accompanying support systems, is a matter for UK Sport. Through their success in Beijing, UK Sport has demonstrated its expertise in delivering results through carefully targeted funding.

This record level of investment over the London cycle allows UK Sport to give national governing bodies the certainty they have requested across the full Olympic and Paralympic cycle. In return for this enhanced public funding package all governing bodies are being asked to participate fully in the Medal Hopes scheme.

UK Sport have confirmed that this funding package enables it to set a target to attain fourth place in the Olympic Games, and second place in the Paralympic Games in 2012—aiming to win more medals in more sports than in Beijing.

For those sports that have not yet been given funding allocations by UK Sport, we will be working with them and our partners to put in place plans to support their development until private funds come on stream. I will be meeting with the national governing bodies of these sports and our partners before their funding allocations are made in January 2009.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our ambition set out in Budget 2006—a £600 million public and private package to support elite athletes—remains in place and on track. In recognition of the changed economic circumstances we have increased the public funding commitment and reduced the amount of funding that needs to be raised from the private sector. The Government will be working with all partners to raise the funds needed and remain confident that it can be achieved, and in doing so will establish a three-strand funding model—Exchequer, lottery and private funds—that will be the rightful and lasting legacy for the future of British elite sport.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I am pleased to announce that I have appointed John Steele, Mary Carter and the Very Reverend Graham Forbes as members of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, each for a three-year term of office commencing on 1 March 2009. These appointments have been conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Lord Hunt, Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation and I, will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 4 December. Stewart Stevenson, Scottish Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change will also attend.

At the Environment Council the French presidency will report on progress on the EU climate-energy legislative package. They will also provide briefing on the proposed renewable energy directive. The main outstanding issues on the climate and energy package include the redistribution of a proportion of allowances to the new member states for the purposes of solidarity; how to identify those sectors at risk of carbon leakage and what measures would be appropriate to reduce this risk; and the use of revenues from the auctioning of allowances. The door is still open for agreement on a financing mechanism for the demonstration of carbon capture and storage technology.

The presidency will also report on progress on the proposal for a regulation setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars—CO_2 from cars—and on the proposal for a directive on industrial emissions—integrated pollution prevention and control, IPPC directive.

Furthermore, there will be a policy debate and adoption of Council conclusions on the sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and sustainable industrial policy (SIP) action plan. The policy debate is likely to focus on next steps for delivering the plan, ecolabelling, lifestyles and behaviour, and carbon content display for products.

Following policy debates, Ministers are due to adopt Council conclusions on addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and addressing the global mercury challenges in preparation for the 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi on 16 to 20 February 2009.

Under 'any other business', the European Commission will present communications on: the dismantling of ships; the EU strategy on invasive alien species, the EU and the Arctic region and the implementation of European Community environmental law. Additionally, the European Commission is likely to present a Green Paper on biowaste management in the European Union. Finally, the Irish delegation has asked for a discussion under 'any other business' on waste—the fall in demand for recycled materials.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Magee Review (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The House will wish to know that we have today published the Government's response to Sir Ian Magee's independent review of criminality information.

As I have said previously, we are grateful for the work that Sir Ian has done on the review and our response accepts the rationale behind all of his recommendations. These and the actions highlighted in our response encourage the better use, sharing and management of criminality information so that we can continue to reduce the risk of harm to the public while ensuring that information is held securely and shared only where it is lawful and proportionate to do so.

My introduction to the response is also the Government's statement of intent on the improved management of criminality information and its use to reduce the risk to the public. It sets out a number of examples of work we have already put in train to further protect the public, for example:

> The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has created a Central Criminal Records Office which is providing a focal point for several agencies involved in multi-agency public protection arrangements to protect the public against violent and sexual offenders;
>
> The establishment of a UK central authority has enabled the exchange of criminal conviction information between EU member states and the UK;
>
> The Criminal Records Bureau, the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre are strengthening the information framework for protecting children and other vulnerable groups.

We are building on these achievements and have begun a programme of work to take forward Sir Ian's recommendations. This will often not involve doing new things, but instead means factoring in the principles of the review into existing or planned pieces of work that we are already committed to delivering. For example, work to support the deportation of EEA nationals in appropriate circumstances and the developing identity management strategy.

Everyone in the Public Protection Network needs to recognise how their jobs contribute to protecting the public and they need to be provided with the training and resources necessary so that they can properly make their vital risk-based decisions relevant to public protection.

This is not just about solving yesterday and today's problems, it is also about trying to make sure that similar issues do not arise in the future. This will require long-term change to how Public Protection Network organisations operate and more work across organisational boundaries.

This will take time, but we have also set ourselves clear short-term milestones. We are already establishing robust ministerial governance structures and will appoint an independent adviser to ensure we maintain momentum. By the end of January 2009 we will agree a strategic direction for criminality information management and will provide new guidance on managing risks across the whole Public Protection Network by April. We aim to implement a number of steps to improve our business processes by the middle of next year and by September staff training on managing criminality information will be enhanced.

This will take us some considerable way to meeting our key objective which is to provide frontline Public Protection Network staff with the information they need, in the format that they need, at the time that they need it so that they can protect the public. Our response to Sir Ian's review is an important aspect of meeting that challenge.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Vote Office.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Brussels on 27 and 28 November 2008. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council endorsed a statement condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Giles de Kerchove, the counter-terrorism co-ordinator, welcomed the Council's recent focus on counter-terrorism. Radicalisation and recruitment were sensitive issues, but consensus has been reached on updating the action plan under the French presidency. It was important to encourage moderate Muslims to express their views. External work with the UN, Pakistan, the Sahel and the US was also critical. The Commission highlighted efforts on explosives, critical infrastructure protection, and CBRN—Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear—terrorism.

The UK welcomed the work of de Kerchove and the presidency on counter-radicalisation and stressed that this area had to be the focus for the long-term effort. Important elements were countering ideology, strengthening mainstream voices, tackling spaces where radicalisation can happen, such as prisons and schools, and communications. The UK had undertaken extensive work in this area, and was keen to do more at EU level.

On civil protection, Ministers were shown a film of a recent CBRN exercise and conclusions were agreed on improving the Union's modular response, training and EU-UN co-ordination. Some additional measures needed to be taken, and this was the consideration behind the presidency's roadmap.

The Council discussed a presidency paper on PNR. The incoming Czech presidency felt that the report was a good basis for future work and set out plans to work on the legal text at expert level, as well as to engage with other bodies such as the European Parliament and the Fundamental Rights Agency. The UK felt that the presidency's report showed that significant progress had been made, but that there was now a need to maintain the momentum.

During the mixed Committee—including Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland—the presidency and the Commission congratulated Switzerland on its readiness to join the Schengen area, with land borders to be lifted on 12 December 2008 and air borders on 29 March 2009.

The Commission provided an update on the schedule for implementation of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) programme. There had been some delays, but testing had resumed on 5 November and the results would be ready at the end of December. Every effort would be made to ensure that SIS II was fully operational before the end of 2009. The UK asked for the views of member states not presently linked into the SIS programme to be represented in the 'Friends of SIS II' group looking at the SIS II programme. This was agreed.

The presidency reported on the 2nd EU-Africa Conference on Migration and Development which took place in Paris on the 25 November. The Commission supported the practical measures set out in the declaration from the conference and undertook to work hard with member states to take them forward. The Council conclusions on the global approach to migration were agreed without discussion and will be formally adopted at the December General Affairs and External Relations Council.

The presidency reported on the EU Ministerial Conference on Integration which took place in Vichy on 3 to 4 November, and the Council agreed the declaration as Council conclusions.

The presidency congratulated the Council on the progress made in negotiations on the draft directive establishing a single application procedure, a single permit and a common set of rights for third country nationals legally residing in the member states and on reaching political agreement on the blue card directive. The presidency declared that the directives demonstrated the EU was already delivering on commitments made on legal migration in the migration pact.

The Council did not reach agreement on the draft directive extending long-term residence to beneficiaries of international protection—in which the UK does not participate. Reservations are still outstanding on whether to offer the same access to long-term residence rights to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection as to refugees.

During lunch, there was a discussion on Iraqi refugees and, on reconvening, the Council agreed conclusions underlining the importance of resettlement as a protection tool for particularly vulnerable refugees. The Council agreed to step up efforts to meet the target set by UNHCR of 10,000 Iraqi refugees to be offered protection in the EU over the next three years while taking into account member states' individual reception capacities and efforts already taken in the field of resettlement.

The Council discussed and agreed conclusions on how to take forward work dealing with abuse of the free movement directive, in particular by addressing the expulsion of criminals who threatened serious harm and the threat of illegal immigration. The Commission will adopt their report on their evaluation of the implementation of the directive next week but will take forward further work on how member states should interpret the directive in respect of the issues raised in the discussion in early 2009.

The Council agreed conclusions on child abduction alerts.

The presidency provided an update on work to amend the co-operation agreement between Eurojust and Europol.

Five legal instruments were adopted: the framework decision on racism and xenophobia; the framework decision on data protection; the framework decision on mutual recognition in probation matters; the framework decision on terrorism and the framework decision on mutual recognition of judgments in criminal matters.

The Council reached a general approach on the proposed decision amending the existing arrangements for the European judicial network in civil and commercial matters. The European Parliament is due to vote on the final text on 17 December 2008.

The Council conclusions concerning the common frame of reference in contract law were formally adopted. The presidency recalled that member states wanted a non-binding common frame of reference which was voluntary, and confirmed that the Council was not in favour of harmonising contract law in member states.

> The e-justice action plan was adopted. This provides a structure and plan to take forward and deliver the proposed e-Justice projects.
>
> Portugal and Estonia provided a demonstration of a practical example of e-justice, showing how citizens in each of the two countries can now rapidly create a company in the other state on line.
>
> Agreement was reached on the setting up of a network for legislative co-operation, which will facilitate information about legislation in the various member states passing among Ministries of Justice. The presidency said that the first meeting of the network would take place in the first half of 2009.
>
> The Council agreed a general approach on the European supervision order. The UK welcomed the instrument, which would enhance public protection by enabling the supervision of suspects awaiting trial when they returned home, while also ensuring people were not held unnecessarily in detention.
>
> The UK congratulated the presidency on the conclusion of the negotiations on the regulation on mutual recognition of family maintenance obligations. The UK did not opt into this measure when it was proposed; however, Lord Bach announced that the UK would notify the Commission of our wish to participate in this measure when it has been formally adopted.

JUSTICE

CEDAW Optional Protocol

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The review of the experience of the United Kingdom under the optional protocol to the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women announced on 25 June 2007 by my noble Friend Lord McKenzie of Luton (*Official Report*, c. 483) has been concluded.

The CEDAW optional protocol allows women in the UK to submit complaints directly to the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women if they feel that their rights have been violated. The Government accepted the optional protocol to reaffirm our commitment to women's rights and gender equality, and to gain greater empirical evidence on the value of individual petition to the UN generally.

The review of CEDAW was carried out by Professor Jim Murdoch of Glasgow university school of law. Professor Murdoch finds that: the CEDAW operational protocol has not yet provided women in the UK with real benefits; non-governmental organisations in the UK have not used the optional protocol in advancing the cause of women; and that the quality of the UN Committee's adjudication on admissibility of complaints can appear inconsistent.

Government expenditure on cases involving the UK has been calculated at just over £4,000 per case.

Professor Murdoch's findings suggest that the first three years have not provided sufficient empirical evidence to decide either way on the value of other individual complaint mechanisms. We will need further evidence, over a longer period, to establish what the practical benefits are. In the meantime, the Government will consider the merits of other individual complaints mechanisms on a case-by-case basis.

Copies of Professor Murdoch's report of the review have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be placed on the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/whatwedo/humanrights.htm

Legal Aid

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) has made the following written ministerial statement:

> "Legal aid is one of the fundamental elements underpinning the justice system and an important way of helping poorer members of the community. It enables access to justice for those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice and representation. The Government aims to get the best value for money from the provision of these services, so that as many people as possible can be helped using the available resources.
>
> The value of legal aid contracts that have been awarded to the Not for Profit sector by the Legal Services Commission has increased from almost £48 million in 2002-03 to £80 million last year. This has enabled the sector to provide legal aid to an increasing number of people and last year over 250,000 of the 800,000 acts of advice and assistance were delivered by Not for Profit agencies.
>
> The need for legal advice in areas like housing and debt will inevitably increase in these difficult economic times and the Government wants to be sure that the best use of existing resources is being made.
>
> We need to bring together the evidence about the issues facing the advice sector on the ground. I have asked my officials, therefore, to lead a short study which will gather evidence about the following:
>
> > The impact of the recession and the demand for civil legal advice.
> >
> > The impact of civil legal advice fixed fees on local providers—financially and in terms of the type of work they are taking on.
> >
> > The initial experience of Community Legal Advice Centres, including the impact on other providers in the area.
> >
> > Trends in funding from sources other than the Community Legal Service, including local authority funding, national lottery funding, charities, central government departments, and others.
>
> Our study will complement other work that is taking place—for example, the Legal Services Commission's review of civil fixed fees, which is due to report early next year and the Legal Services Research Centre's ongoing research and evaluation of CLACs. The aim of our study will be to identify, bring together, and analyse the available evidence across England and Wales. This will improve our understanding of how legal advice is delivered and funded at the local level and establish what further information we may need to inform future decisions.
>
> The study team will work closely with advice providers, local authorities and other funders of advice to establish the evidence. I intend to set up a steering group for the project, which will include representatives from outside Government, which I will chair.
>
> The initial study will report in March and copies of the report will placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Government Legislative Programme

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Listed below are those Bills which the Government intend to bring forward in the current session. Details of each of these Bills are available from the Leader of the House of Commons website—www.CommonsLeader.gov.uk/Legislation:

1) Business Rate Supplements
2) Borders, Immigration and Citizenship
3) Child Poverty

4) Coroners and Justice
5) Children, Skills and Learning
6) Equality
7) Health
8) Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction
9) Marine and Coastal Access
12) Policing and Crime
13) Saving Gateway Accounts
14) Welfare Reform

Draft Bills

1) Antarctica
2) Bribery
3) Civil Law Reform
4) Communications Data
5) Community Empowerment
6) Floods and Water
7) Immigration Simplification

Carry Over Bills

1) Banking
2) Political Parties and Elections

The summary of the consultation on the Government's draft legislative programme was laid before the House yesterday and is available from the Vote Office and the Leader of the House of Commons website: www.CommonsLeader.gov.uk.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Government Legislative Programme

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): The Fourth Session UK legislative programme unveiled in the Queen's Speech on 3 December contains measures of relevance to the people of Northern Ireland.

The following is a summary of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its impact in Northern Ireland. It includes both new Bills that will be introduced in the next Session and Bills carried over from the last Session. It does not include draft Bills.

The list also identifies the lead Government Department.

The following Bills extend to Northern Ireland, in whole or in part, and deal mainly with excepted or reserved matters. Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that where provisions that deal with devolved matters are included in any of these Bills, the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly will be sought for them:

Banking (HM Treasury) (Introduced in the 3rd Session)
Political Parties and Elections (MOJ) (Introduced in the 3rd Session)
Savings Gateway (HM Treasury)
Borders, Immigration and Citizenship (HO)
Coroners and Justice (MOJ)
Child Poverty (Child Poverty Unit)
Policing and Crime (HO)

It is intended that the following Bills will extend to Northern Ireland to varying degrees. They will require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to those provisions in the devolved field:

Marine (DEFRA)
Health (DoH)
Children, Skills and Learning (DCSF)

Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on Bills that might include provisions that require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The following Bills will have limited or no impact in Northern Ireland:

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (DCLG)
Equality (GEO)
Welfare Reform (DWP)

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with Section 10 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994, I have appointed the right hon. Member for North-East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC) as a member of the Intelligence and Security Committee in place of the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Sir Alan Beith). The appointment follows appropriate consultation and reflects the recommendation of the House.

SCOTLAND

Commission on Scottish Devolution (First Report)

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): On behalf of the Government I welcome the publication on 2 December of the first report from the Commission on Scottish Devolution.

The Commission was set up by the Scottish Parliament and is fully supported by the UK Government. The Commission's mandate is

> "to review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament, and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom."

Publication of this first report demonstrates the wide-ranging engagement the Commission has undertaken across Scotland and elsewhere in the UK.

The Government will consider this first report in detail. We look forward to providing additional evidence to the Commission and to receipt of the final recommendations of the Commission in due course.

I have arranged for copies of the first report to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Government Legislative Programme

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy): The legislative programme for the Fourth Session was unveiled in the Queen's Speech on 3 December. All of the Bills announced in the Queen's Speech contain provisions that apply to Scotland, this is a programme that will significantly benefit Scots from all walks of life.

In this Session the Government will take forward measures to ensure fair rules, fair chances and fair futures for people across Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

This statement includes a summary of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its application to Scotland. This statement includes both new Bills that will be introduced in the coming weeks and months and those Bills that are carrying-over from the last Session. It does not include draft Bills. The Bills listed in section 1 are not likely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament. Section 2 details Bills that are likely to contain provisions that require the legislative consent of the Scottish Parliament (LCM) in line with the Sewel convention. A brief description is provided of the provisions likely to require consent.

The list also identifies the lead Government Department:

UK Legislation unlikely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament at introduction:

The Bills in this section deal largely with reserved matters. Discussions will continue between the Government and the Scottish Ministers to ensure that if provisions relating to matters which trigger the Sewel convention are included in any of these Bills during their passage at Westminster, the consent of the Scottish Parliament will be sought for them:

Banking (HMT) (introduced in 3rd Session)

Borders, Immigration and Citizenship (HO)

Child Poverty (Child Poverty Unit)

Health (DoH)[1]

Political Parties and Elections (MOJ) (introduced in 3rd Session)

Savings Gateway (HMT)

[1] While health care is predominately a devolved matter, the provisions in this Bill extending to Scotland do not require an LCM

Legislation likely to contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament at introduction:

Discussions will continue between the Government and the Scottish Ministers on Bills that might include provisions that trigger the Sewel convention. The Bills identified within the Queen's Speech in this section are as follows:

Children, Skills and Learning (DCFS)—The Bill allows for arrangements between UK and Scottish Ministers to be made in relation to the provision of education and training services that will require an LCM. The Bill will also include reserved measures on the right to request time off to train.

Coroners and Justice (MOJ)—The Bill will include devolved measures, that require an LCM, on criminal memoirs and the transposition of the services directive.

Equality Bill (GEO)—Equal opportunities is a reserved matter. This Bill will require an LCM as it will amend the Scottish Ministers functions by allowing them to impose specific public sector duties on Scottish public bodies for the three new strands.

Local Democracy, Economic Regeneration and Construction (DCLG)—The Bill requires an LCM for devolved measures that relate to the construction industry supply chain.

Specifically these will improve clarity on cash flow and encourage parties to resolve disputes by adjudication rather than by litigation. Additionally the Bill will repeal uncommenced provisions in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act that apply to Scotland which relate to the Boundary Committee.

Marine and Coastal Access (DEFRA)—This Bill will greatly improve the way the UK uses its vast natural marine resources and maximises the benefits it gets from them, balancing competing, economic, ecological and social interests. The Bill will enable a single UK-wide marine policy statement to be drawn up by UK Ministers in conjunction with the devolved Administrations. An LCM will be required to make Scottish Ministers the marine planning authority and to give them powers to designate marine conservation zones for the Scottish offshore region. They will also have responsibility for marine licensing in relation to many activities in the Scottish offshore region.

Policing and Crime (HO)—This Bill will include a significant range of reserved provisions that will extend to Scotland. The Bill will also include measures that provide for the recognition and enforcement of English and Welsh Football Banning Orders in Scotland which will require an LCM.

Welfare Reform and Birth Registration (DWP)—Social Security is a reserved matter and the Bill will include wider-ranging reserved provisions that will extend to Scotland. An LCM will be required to confer a regulation making power upon the Scottish Ministers so that they may include devolved funding streams within the "right to control".

TRANSPORT

Crossrail Core Agreements

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): On 26 November 2007, my predecessor issued a written ministerial statement (*Official Report*, 4-5WS) announcing that the heads of terms for Crossrail had been agreed between the Department for Transport and Transport for London.

The heads of terms outlined the financial and governance arrangements to be put in place to secure the effective completion of the Crossrail project. Copies of the heads of terms were deposited in the Library of the House on 26 November 2007. They have now been developed into a comprehensive suite of agreements which will ensure a robust governance structure to enable the project to be delivered on time and on budget.

The principal agreements of these are the Crossrail sponsors' agreement, which sets out arrangements between my Department and Transport for London for the funding and governance of the Crossrail project and the Project Development Agreement, which sets out the relationship between the Department for Transport and Transport for London as joint sponsors and Cross London Rail Links, the project delivery body. I am today placing a copy of both agreements in the Library of the House.

With the signing of these agreements, the project can proceed to its next phase of development and the next milestone will be in late 2009. I intend to return to Parliament to offer an update on progress as appropriate, in particular after the conclusion of my Department and Transport for London's joint review of services which are to transfer from existing franchises to Transport for London's control.

On 4 November, I laid before Parliament a minute which set out the contingent liabilities that I, as the Secretary of State for Transport, will be entering into on the signature of these agreements.

The completion of these agreements marks the passing of another key milestone in the project with main construction beginning in 2010 and the first services running in 2017.

Heathrow

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The 2003 White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" made clear that, given the economic benefits to the United Kingdom, the Government support the further development of Heathrow by adding a third runway and exploring the scope for making greater use of the existing runways, subject to meeting strict local conditions on air quality, noise and improving public transport access.

The then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton West (Ruth Kelly), made a statement to the House on 8 July 2008 (*Official Report*, Col. 75WS) which explained progress following the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation, which closed on 27 February 2008. She announced a further consultative exercise as part of delivering a full equalities impact assessment and the intention to inform the House of the decision on the future development of Heathrow before the end of the year. The further consultative exercise closed on 9 November 2008.

Since being appointed Secretary of State for Transport in October, I have had the opportunity to hear views from across the House in debate on 5 November and to begin considering the evidence, including the 70,000 responses to the consultation.

I share the desire on all sides of the House, and among the wider public, for this issue to be resolved. I am equally aware of the importance of reaching the right conclusion.

I know that there are strong views across a range of interests. I will ensure that I give proper consideration to the evidence before me and will therefore take more time before making an announcement to the House in January 2009.

WALES

Government Legislative Programme

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the Government's fourth session legislative programme will contain 14 Bills. Almost every one will affect Wales in some way.

The programme builds on the pre-Budget report with a focus on helping people meet the economic challenges they are facing particularly in this current climate. The Government will take forward measures to ensure fairness in our society, with fair rules, a fair say and a fair chance for all.

There will be two Bills with framework provisions:

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Further information on these provisions will be made available after the Bills' introductions.

A further six Bills at least will contain specific provisions for Wales, which will generally be provisions to confer the same powers on Welsh Ministers, in devolved areas of responsibility, as are being conferred on UK Ministers in those areas in relation to England. These are:

Business Rates Supplements

Children, Skills and Learning

Coroners and Justice

Equality

Policing and Crime

Welfare Reform

Further Welsh provisions may be included as Bills continue to be developed.

The Government continue to remain committed to delivering devolution through provisions in Westminster Bills and by using the Legislative Competence Order process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Personalised Conditionality and Support

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): On Tuesday 2 December, I received Professor Paul Gregg's report on the effectiveness of the conditionality requirements that are currently applied to working age benefit claimants. This report "Realising Potential: A Vision for Personalised Conditionality and Support", was commissioned by my Department earlier this year.

The report is wide-ranging and ambitious and looks at the effectiveness of welfare reform and how more unemployed people, lone parents and people with a health condition or disability can access personalised help and be supported back to work. While the economic backdrop to the review is challenging it remains crucial to consider, debate and put in place further reforms to the welfare state to ensure we help as many disadvantaged people as possible to find work.

The report assesses the effectiveness of the current requirements that apply to the unemployed and to other groups. Evidence suggests that the requirements that apply to the unemployed on jobseeker's allowance have been highly effective over the past decade. The work-focused interview regime that applies to other claimants has also had some success, but primarily for those closest to the labour market.

However, the report recognises that the numbers of people getting support are still low compared to the numbers who do actually want to get back to work. This means that many of the most vulnerable people are not accessing help that evidence tells us is effective. This denies the wider financial, health and well-being gains that comes from working.

The report makes a number of important recommendations around how to address the weaknesses that remain within the current benefit system to ensure more people can access support and get back to work. The report suggests that almost everyone claiming benefit and not in work should:

be required to engage in activity that will help them to move towards, and then into employment;

have an empowered personal adviser with whom they will be able to agree a route back to work;

be obliged to agree an action plan on the steps they agree with their adviser will help them;

have a clear understanding of the expectations placed upon them (and why) and what the consequences for failing to meet these are; and

be able to access a wide range of personal support on the basis of need not benefit label.

The report makes clear that the Department should not seek to realise this vision by expecting lone parents with younger children and people with a health condition or disability to be treated as though they were unemployed and be made to look for suitable jobs. This would be counter-productive, unreasonable and punitive. Rather the report recommends the creation of an entirely new sort of conditionality regime for people who have a good opportunity to secure employment with time, encouragement and support. People in this "Progression to Work" group should face requirements which:

reflect the claimants co-ownership of the return to work process;

are tailored to their capability and built around their circumstances;

are based on activity that supports their own route back to work; and

are linked up with effective support.

The report also identifies some groups of people who should face no conditionality requirements whatsoever. These groups are lone parents and partners with very young children, carers with the most significant caring responsibilities and people with the most severe health conditions.

To realise this vision the report suggests that the right support needs to be made available, based on need rather than what benefit people are on. We also need to make sure those who deliver employment support, whether in Jobcentre Plus or the private and voluntary sector, have the right incentives to deliver the right support at the right time.

The Department warmly welcomes the report and will consider Professor Gregg's findings very carefully and will respond shortly.

Copies of "Realising Potential: A Vision for Personalised Conditionality and Support" have been placed in the Library of the House.

Winter Supplementary Estimates

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions departmental expenditure limit will increase by £3,752,000 from £7,834,033,000 to £7,837,785,000 and the administration budget will increase by £1,292,000 from £5,692,537,000 to £5,693,829,000.

Within the departmental expenditure limit change, the impact on resource and capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change £'000			*New Departmental Expenditure Limit £'000*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	78,559	-77,307	1,252	6,381,492	1,508,147	7,889,639
of which:						
Administration	*1,292*	*0*	*1,292*	*5,643,829*	*50,000*	*5,693,829*
Near-cash	*497*	*0*	*497*	*6,111,830*	*1,615,932*	*7,727,762*
Capital	3,210	0	3,210	78,113	426	78,539
Depreciation[1]	-710	0	-710	-128,798	-1,595	-130,393
Total	81,059	-77,307	3,752	6,330,807	1,506,978	7,837,785

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource departmental expenditure limit, is excluded from the total departmental expenditure limit since the capital departmental expenditure limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the departmental expenditure limit arises from:

Request for Resources 2

i) A budget transfer of £569,000 to the Ministry of Justice to fund training relating to the introduction of employment support allowance.

ii) A budget transfer of £3,500,000 to the Ministry of Justice to fund expected increases in consent orders through the courts for child maintenance, following repeal of section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991.

Request for Resources 5

iii) A machinery of government transfer of £1,030,000 from Cabinet Office in respect of the electronic delivery team. the electronic delivery team is responsible for the Government Gateway.

iv) A budget transfer of £45,000 to HM Treasury to support the work of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

v) A budget transfer of £40,000 to Cabinet Office to support the work of the Government secure zone.

vi) A budget transfer of £376,000 from Cabinet Office to enable the Department to meet additional costs arising from the expansion of services provided by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

vii) A budget transfer of £4,000,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of the costs of Caxton House, for which this Department has taken over management responsibility and agreed the transfer of the property to Land Securities Trillium.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital element of the departmental expenditure limit arises from:

Request for Resources 2

viii) A machinery of government transfer of £210,000 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Health and Safety Executive in respect of the Pesticides Safety Directorate. This transfer occurs as a result of the Hampton Review on regulatory inspections and enforcement.

Request for Resources 5

ix) Budget transfers of £2,000,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families and £1,000,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government relating to the work of Government Connect. Government Connect is a strategic partnership between national and local government that provides a secure IT infrastructure between central government departments and local authorities.

Administration Costs

The movement in the administration cost limit arises from the changes to the resource departmental expenditure limit as noted in items i) to iv), vi) and vii).

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

The reduction in non-voted resource expenditure is due to a reduction in the cost of administering national insurance fund benefit payments. This reduction is offset by an increase in voted resource due to an equivalent reduction in income from HM Revenue and Customs to meet the cost of administering national insurance fund benefit payments:

Request for Resources 2

x) A reduction in non-voted resource expenditure of £32,415,000 offset by an increase in voted resource expenditure of £32,415,000.

Request for Resources 3

xi) A reduction in non-voted resource expenditure of £25,448,000 offset by an increase in voted resource expenditure of £25,448,000.

Request for Resources 5

xii) A reduction in non-voted resource expenditure of £19,444,000 offset by an increase in voted resource expenditure of £19,444,000.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 8 December 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council which took place in Brussels on 1 December 2008, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hervé Novelli, French Minister of State responsible for Businesses and Foreign Trade, and Jean Pierre Jouyet, French Minister of State responsible for European Affairs.

The meeting started with consideration of intellectual property issues. The Commission emphasised the need for a better, more cost-effective patent system, and the role that the Competitiveness Council can play in boosting innovation, competitiveness, and economic recovery through agreement of the Community patent proposals during either the Czech or Swedish presidencies. Member states agreed on the principle, but remained divided on the substance. I emphasised the need for the Commission to undertake further economic analysis, particularly on the level of fees, and invited the Commission to present a negotiating mandate on the European patent court proposals at the earliest opportunity.

Following this the French presidency presented a report on gambling and betting policies in member states. They proposed further discussion of this issue in Council, with a particular focus on illegal gambling, addiction, crime prevention, including money laundering and consumer protection. I emphasised that the report should have gone further in setting out the potential benefits of effective regulation as opposed to prohibition, and questioned the appropriateness of further work in the Council, stressing that further clarity and improvement of standards could be achieved through the Commission continuing to enforce the treaty provisions, member states completing reviews of national legislation, and an improved dialogue between regulators and the sector itself. I tabled a minute statement (jointly with Malta) to this effect.

The main agenda item was a presentation by the European Commission on its communication on the response to the economic crisis. Member states were invited to respond during a discussion over lunch, although no formal conclusions were proposed or agreed. The main themes raised were the automotive industry, appropriate levels of state aid, the need for investment in infrastructure, and supporting the need to advance structural fund spend. Access to capital was highlighted as key to limiting the spread of the financial crisis.

The Commission went on to stress the important role of small and medium enterprises in the economic recovery of Europe. It highlighted the need to ensure access to finance and reducing administrative burdens, in particular an exemption for micro-companies from certain accounting requirements. I took part in unanimous agreement to conclusions to put in place a Small Business Act for Europe.

The French presidency also tabled a progress report on the European private company statute, an area where discussions will continue under the Czech presidency in 2009. On European clusters, Council conclusions were agreed without discussion. The Commission emphasised that the recent Communication on clusters should enable member states' own policies to be more effective.

Under any other business, the Commission stressed that consumers and particularly consumer confidence would be key in the economic recovery, and that the new consumer rights directive introduced a simplified framework to unlock retail markets and raise choice at competitive prices. The French presidency called for rapid agreement of the defence procurement directive and signalled its intention to make every effort to reach a deal. I supported a Dutch paper on better regulation covering a sectoral targets, and an overall net reduction of 25 per cent. There were also brief presentations from Estonia and Portugal on the use of e-signatures to establish companies online, a request from Spain for tourism to be included as a sector in the economic recovery package, a Commission presentation on its raw materials communication, and an update from the French presidency covering negotiations on toys and cosmetics, which have the potential for First Reading Deals in December 2008 and January 2009 respectively.

TREASURY

Parliamentary Questions (Cost)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The Treasury has conducted its annual indexation exercise of the cost of oral and written parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The revised costs, which will apply from 3 December 2008, the first day of the 2008-09 session, are:

oral questions £410
written questions £149

The disproportionate cost threshold will be increased to £750, also with effect from the 3 December 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Buying and Selling

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): For most people, buying or selling a home is the most important financial transaction they will undertake. It is often also one of the most stressful and difficult. Home information packs (HIPs) were introduced to give consumers more information from the outset of that transaction, making the process fairer, faster and more transparent. Existing regulations which allow for a delay in providing a HIP and for transitional insurance cover expire at the end of December. I propose to extend them until 6 April 2009.

This statement outlines the changes we propose to make to HIPs to make them work more effectively from that date, both by expanding the content and ensuring they are available right from the start. The proposals give the industry and prospective sellers time to prepare for the changes.

Expanding HIP content

Following consultation, I am today laying an order amending the regulations so that from 6 April 2009 HIPs must include a property information questionnaire. This will give buyers more useful information to help them make decisions about whether to view a property, and ultimately, whether to make an offer. The forms have been designed to be quick, easy and straightforward for sellers to complete.

For leasehold properties, the property information questionnaire will include a summary of the leasehold arrangements, replacing previous requirements. I am also laying an order making the temporary leasehold information provision permanent from 1 January 2009. This means that a copy of the lease will continue to be the only extra information required for leasehold properties.

Although take-up of home condition reports has been disappointing, we know that people want to know about the condition of homes before they commit to buy them. I will establish a working group to explore options for making sure that consumers have appropriate information about a property's condition. This will build on the work carried out by the stakeholder panel to develop market-led models that can be delivered by existing practitioners, including home inspectors.

Making HIPs available sooner

It is essential that buyers are able to see the information in the HIP as soon as possible. However, with the temporary first day marketing provision, while sellers must order and pay for the HIP, agents may take up to 28 days before making it available.

As a result, some buyers looking to move quickly are making decisions about purchases without ever seeing the HIP. Some sellers are paying for a pack that they never receive. And some estate agents are said to be using this period to avoid complying with the relevant regulations on marketing properties. We are therefore ending this first day marketing provision from 6 April 2009 so that all buyers will get the information they need as soon as possible.

We recognise the present difficulties in the housing market. But that makes it even more important to remove uncertainties for buyers and sellers; speeding up and smoothing out the process. So this change will mean that sellers will not face unnecessary delays. A recent survey of 16,000 transactions showed that where a HIP was available, exchanges were, on average, actually completed six days quicker.

The information required for a basic HIP, which a seller will need to start marketing their property, is readily available in three to five days. Sellers will still have up to 28 days to provide certain information that may take longer to compile such as the property search. Nor will this mean extra burdens for estate agents—they will still be able to advise potential clients about properties they expect to be coming onto the market soon. And independent research by Europe Economics has already concluded that HIPs do not have an impact on house prices or transactions.

Ending transitional insurance cover provision

This provision was intended to enable the private sector to conduct property searches in local authorities where access to relevant data were restricted. But in practice, too many search providers are using this provision even where the data are readily available. Lacking the relevant information, in some cases buyers have had to pay for a second search to be carried out by the local authority. This is not acceptable. Wherever possible, consumers need information rather than insurance; and they should not have to pay for it twice.

The Under-Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright), has already laid provisions introducing a new charging regime for local authority property searches data. As charges become fairer, private sector searchers will have easier access and should therefore not need this insurance cover, which will end on 6 April 2009, coinciding with the introduction of the property information questionnaire.

I want to make sure that consumers find property searches as informative and helpful as possible. I have asked Ted Beardsall, former deputy chief executive of the Land Registry, to convene a working group to consider how these might be made simpler and more easy to use.

Better enforcement and service standards

Consumers should be in no doubt that we will protect their rights and champion their interests where sellers or estate agents try to avoid or neglect their responsibilities and obligations. Estate agents who break the law face sanctions.

The changes introduced today will make it easier for local trading standards agencies to identify specific cases of non-compliance and enforce the requirements.

We also want to make sure that both buyers and sellers get a good service from professionals working in the industry. They should be clear about the standards of service they are entitled to, how the industry is regulated, and where to go if they have concerns or complaints. So I am pleased that the Office of Fair Trading will be conducting a comprehensive study of home buying and selling, looking at competition between service providers and how consumer interests are served. My Department will work closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to support this study, which should provide important evidence about how effectively the industry is working at present and whether further reform may be needed.

These changes will make sure that consumers are better protected, and better informed. They will get the vital information they need when they need it, with a copy of the HIP available up-front and a property search which is fit for purpose. This will give them greater value for money, and greater peace of mind. Industry bodies and property professionals will also benefit from greater certainty about how the process should work. The Department will be preparing and communicating advice to help consumers and industry understand and plan for the changes.

DEFENCE

Counter-terrorism and Resilience Report (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): In July 2007, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) was asked to undertake a detailed study into the role of the Ministry of Defence in counter-terrorism and resilience. The then Secretary of State for Defence announced its completion in July. This statement sets out the Government response.

The report reinforces a central theme of the national security strategy—that there can be no simple distinction between defence and wider security or domestic and overseas considerations. Counter-terrorism and resilience require an integrated approach. Government Departments must work ever more closely together and with other stakeholders to overcome institutional barriers, including in respect of funding. This includes Defence.

My right hon. Friend has looked at the full range of defence capabilities and at all of our linkages with other organisations. In outline, the report endorses the approach that the primary focus for Defence's counter-terrorism contribution should continue to be overseas, with any role in the UK restricted to the provision of niche capabilities to the civil authorities or augmentation in times of emergency. The emphasis is on the increasing use of "smart" power to gain strategic insight and intelligence and to develop relationships which enable work across all strands of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. Within the UK the report concludes that Defence should continue to provide specialist support to police forces, and that it should be strengthened including through an enhanced exercise programme.

The study has found that we could make more of some of our strengths, such as in strategic planning, education and research and development. In that context, we may have more to offer on protective security and planning support on security for the 2012 Olympic games.

I welcome and agree in principle the 29 recommendations outlined in the report. They complement the development of a classified defence capabilities compendium which we have provided to those who may call upon support from Defence. The recommendations will be implemented across Government, co-ordinated and developed where necessary by the national security secretariat. The security classification prevents us from publishing the report in full, but the Defence Committee has been given access to the report as part of their inquiry into national security and resilience.

Northern Ireland (Normalisation)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): My statement to the House on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 73WS announced the cessation of Operation Banner. Since then we have continued to refine our military structures in Northern Ireland commensurate with normalisation and I now judge that we can remove the post of General Officer Commanding (GOC) in Northern Ireland.

The current GOC will complete his tour at the end of the year and we do not expect to replace him. The Commander of 38 (Irish) Brigade and Northern Ireland Garrison will thereafter become the senior officer based in Northern Ireland. The change shall result in a small reduction in military posts which will be reabsorbed into other areas across Defence. We aim to have command in Northern Ireland fully normalised by January 2009.

This step reflects our commitment towards security normalisation in Northern Ireland. The armed forces will continue to provide support to the PSNI, and contribute to civil contingencies where required through the normal procedures for military aid to the civil authorities in the UK.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 8 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 11-12 December 2008

The Council will discuss the Presidency's draft agenda for the December European Council, which will be dominated by the EU's response to the next stage of the economic downturn and the financial crisis. We can also expect substantial discussions on the 2020 climate change package. Other agenda items include the Lisbon Treaty ratification process, the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Security and Defence Policy and the Eastern Partnership.

The Government broadly support the presidency's priorities for the December European Council. We welcome a continued co-ordinated response to the economic and financial crisis; and remain fully committed to reaching an ambitious agreement on the 2020 climate change package by the end of 2008. On the Common Agricultural Policy, we would not support any language that pre-empts the EU budget review.

Enlargement

We expect Ministers to agree Conclusions on EU enlargement that reconfirm the Council's consensus in support of enlargement on the basis that the EU should stick to its commitments, apply conditionality fairly and rigorously, and improve communication. We expect Ministers to welcome the European Commission Communication of 5 November on enlargement strategy and progress reports for candidates and potential candidates. They will take stock of the progress of accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia, urging both countries to redouble their efforts to implement the necessary reforms, given that the pace of the negotiations depends on this. In the case of Croatia the Commission has proposed a conditional road map for the conclusion of negotiations in 2009. We expect Ministers to express support for the forthcoming Czech Presidency's plans for an event to mark the anniversary of the fifth wave of enlargement in 2004.

External Relations

World Trade Organisation (WTO)—Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

It now appears likely that a WTO ministerial on the DDA will be convened later in December. The discussion is likely to focus on the EU position and tactics ahead of the proposed ministerial. The Government expect partners to express a range of views on the likely outcome and success of the negotiations, reiterating in this context domestic concerns. Achieving agreement in the DDA remains the Government's top trade priority and our objective at the GAERC will be to ensure Partners' continued support for the European Commission, so that it can negotiate the best possible outcome for the EU.

Western Balkans

Discussion is likely to focus on Kosovo, and in particular deployment of the EU's rule of law mission, EULEX. Kosovo has made clear its agreement to EULEX deployment while, following last week's presidential statement in the UN Security Council, Serbia has also announced that it would support it. The Government believe EULEX should rapidly become operational throughout Kosovo.

Ministers are also likely to discuss Serbia's progress towards the EU. The Government believes that Serbia has in recent months significantly improved its co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. While we would be happy for the EU to recognise that improvement—for example by allowing the entry into force of the "Interim Agreement"—we believe that Serbia will need to demonstrate full co-operation with ICTY before its stabilisation and association agreement with the EU can be ratified.

Middle East

The Council will discuss the renewed EU action strategy for peace in the Middle East, recognising the need for a comprehensive regional approach utilising the Arab peace initiative. Ministers will reaffirm the EU's commitment to focus on supporting Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and assisting Palestinian state building efforts.

We expect Council conclusions to: condemn all violence; urge a halt to new settlement activities; and call for an urgent improvement in the Gaza humanitarian situation, the release of Gilad Shalit and an increase in the numbers of Palestinian prisoners released.

The Council will confirm that the Middle East Peace Process is a top priority for the EU and will remain so into 2009, and urge the next US Administration to participate in early engagement on this issue.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Discussion is likely to focus on progress towards a political resolution of the conflict in eastern DRC. Ministers will consider how the EU can support the efforts of former President Obasanjo, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the region. They are also likely to discuss ways of alleviating the very serious humanitarian consequences of recent fighting. As the CNDP militia—rebels loyal to Laurent Nkunda—retreats from positions it has captured recently, it is vital that humanitarian aid can reliably reach the people who need it. This requires appropriate military capacity and Ministers are likely to consider what role the EU can play in the augmentation of the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC).

Zimbabwe

We expect conclusions to condemn the ongoing failure to reach an equitable power-sharing agreement in Zimbabwe. We anticipate that the Council will express serious concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis and the rising incidents of cholera in Zimbabwe. The EU will reaffirm its commitment to the alleviation of suffering through the provision of aid.

Pakistan

We expect conclusions to welcome Pakistan's return to democracy and commitment to step up measures to counter terrorism and extremism. We also expect Ministers to commit to further developing EU political dialogue in a number of areas including: trade and development; intercultural exchange; non-proliferation; human rights; counter-terrorism; and radicalisation and education. The Council will discuss how best to intensify political dialogue in line with EU commitments to enhance engagement with Pakistan. The Council will also acknowledge Pakistan's request to initiate the process for an EU-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and will commit to examining all the options aimed at enhancing trade relations.

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

Ministers will consider efforts to improve the capabilities of the EU Member States; teaching partnerships with organisations such as NATO and UN; and ongoing EU operations, including the operation to improve maritime security off the coast of Somalia, which will be commanded by a British Rear Admiral from the UK's multinational headquarters at Northwood. Ministers will also agree statements on increasing co-operation between the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR); a voluntary scheme for the exchange of young military officers; civilian and military capabilities; and on international security. The Government welcome this opportunity to underline the importance we attach to further improving the EU's ability to stabilise countries emerging from conflict.

We also expect Ministers to approve a review by high representative Solana of the implementation of the European Security Strategy. The document is intended to complement—not replace—the 2003 Strategy which was the EU's first high level security strategy. The review text focuses mainly on what has been achieved and what has changed. It highlights new threats to stability since 2003: climate change, energy security, globalisation, proliferation, cyber security, piracy. The Government can welcome the broad direction of the document and its key policy conclusions—greater coherence, engagement with the neighbourhood and capabilities.

HEALTH

Primary Care Trust Revenue Allocations/NHS Operating Framework

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The national health service has benefited from successive generous spending settlements, as investment in the NHS has trebled since 1997. This investment has funded the record increases in staff, hospitals and medical advances we have seen in recent years.

We have also seen strong financial management across the NHS over the last few years, which has turned a deficit into a healthy surplus. The NHS has exceeded its Gershon efficiency targets, delivering £7.88 billion savings over the last four years. We expect the NHS to continue to deliver at this level, and to bring forward further proposals to drive additional efficiencies throughout their operations. We can be confident, therefore, that in the tighter economic climate ahead, the NHS is on a firm financial footing and will be well equipped to meet the efficiency challenges of the coming years.

I am pleased to announce today the next round of revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11. PCTs will receive an average increase of 5.5 per cent. in both years, a total increase in funding of £8.6 billion, bringing the total allocations to PCTs over two years to £164 billion.

This means that by 2010-11 PCTs will receive, on average, £1,612 per person. The comparable figure in 1996-97 was £426 per head. We are putting a greater proportion of the resources available into local communities and closer to patients, with more than 80 per cent. of the NHS revenue budget allocated directly to PCTs.

I will be writing this week to every hon. Member in England detailing their relevant PCT's allocations for the two years. I also have included with this statement a table of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations.

The allocations that I am announcing today are based on a new, more technically robust formula that has been recommended by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). This improves on the previous formula by:

targeting funds at the places with the worse health outcomes;

assessing need according to age and other factors together for the first time; and

a new market forces factor (MFF) which reduces unhelpful variation.

It includes a health inequalities formula that continues to target resources to the places with the biggest health problems.

I have placed in the Library ACRA's report and recommendations on the funding formula to make it fairer.

Alongside these revenue allocations, David Nicholson, the NHS chief executive, is publishing this week the NHS operating framework for 2009-10, which sets out the priorities for next year.

This year's operating framework sets out how we will support the health service to deliver the vision in Lord Darzi's "High Quality Care for All" to put quality at the heart of everything the NHS does.

To ensure that we continue to empower and support the local NHS, we need to plot a stable and consistent path. Therefore, the five key priorities for the NHS are consistent with last year:

improving standards of cleanliness and tackling healthcare associated infections;

improving access to care through the achievement of the 18-week referral to treatment pledge and improving access to GP services, including at evenings and at weekends;

improving the health of adults and children and reducing health inequalities, by focusing on improving care for cancer and stroke, and paying particular attention to children's health, particularly in the most deprived areas of the country;

improving patient experience, staff satisfaction and engagement; and

preparing to respond in a state of emergency, such as an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

Alongside the national priorities, PCTs will set their own local priorities built on evidence about local needs. They will need to work in step with local government through local area agreements that focus on improving health and well-being as well as better healthcare.

To deliver that agenda of improving services for patients in this challenging economic climate, we need to redouble our efforts to improve efficiency in the public sector and to get best value for taxpayers' money.

In this context, high quality care is not a luxury but a necessity. Prioritising the most effective treatments, reducing errors and waste and keeping people healthy and independent for as long as possible are all things that contribute not only to the quality of care, but also to a more efficient and productive health service. High quality and value for money are not competing alternatives; they are one and the same thing.

We will accelerate our commitment to implement the vision of quality as the organising principle for the NHS set out in "High Quality Care for All". As Lord Darzi said in his interim report last year: "Effective care matters of course because patients should get the best outcomes. The evidence also shows that the most effective treatment is very often the most efficient treatment".

For example, through the great efforts of the NHS to tackle healthcare associated infections in recent years, we estimate the NHS has already saved over £75 million in reduced bed days and drug costs, while improving outcomes for patients. These savings will rise as we continue to drive down infection rates. Better care equals better value

Recent efforts have underlined the potential for further efficiency gains. As the NHS develops its plans in 2009, it will build on the work of the cross-Government operational efficiency programme and Department of Health's own public value programme.

Already we have estimated there are substantial savings that can be delivered through driving up the quality of care, reducing waste and better commissioning and procurement, including, through better use of shared business services, improvements in the way the NHS estate is used, driving up quality through the world class commissioning programme, and changes to the tariff.

Over the course of the next year, the NHS will plan, bottom-up and in detail, how these productivity opportunities will be realised in 2010-11 and in future years. We want the NHS to bring forward the best package of measures appropriate to each locality.

Of course, a renewed drive for efficiency will be challenging, but even after making an allowance for improved efficiency, with 5.5 per cent. allocations in both of the next two years and prudent drawdown of £800 million of the NHS surplus over the same period, we are confident that the NHS can still secure the continuous improvement in care that patients, public and staff rightly demand.

2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT Revenue Allocations

	2009-10 Allocation £000s	*2010-11 Allocation £000s*	*Two-year Increase £000s*	*Two-year Increase %*	*2010-11 Closing DFT %*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	511,831	539,982	54,834	11.3%	-4.5%
Barking and Dagenham PCT	301,080	316,599	30,789	10.8%	1.3%
Barnet PCT	528,745	555,931	53,442	10.6%	6.7%
Barnsley PCT	409,151	437,291	57,837	15.2%	-6.2%
Bassetlaw PCT	167,978	182,407	26,671	17.1%	-6.2%
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	255,385	268,516	25,812	10.6%	4.4%
Bedfordshire PCT	551,987	585,386	62,176	11.9%	-3.5%
Berkshire East PCT	532,623	560,009	53,833	10.6%	3.7%
Berkshire West PCT	597,061	627,760	60,346	10.6%	5.1%
Bexley Care Trust	321,350	337,896	32,552	10.7%	1.4%
Birmingham East and North PCT	674,108	711,184	72,219	11.3%	-2.5%
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	258,536	272,755	27,698	11.3%	-2.4%
Blackpool PCT	263,731	278,236	28,254	11.3%	-3.6%
Bolton PCT	439,803	463,992	47,117	11.3%	-2.6%
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	509,384	535,575	51,485	10.6%	3.6%
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	810,920	856,745	88,101	11.5%	-1.2%
Brent Teaching PCT	501,538	527,325	50,692	10.6%	7.7%
Brighton and Hove City PCT	438,902	461,469	44,361	10.6%	7.7%
Bristol PCT	660,306	695,459	68,412	10.9%	0.4%
Bromley PCT	466,265	490,239	47,126	10.6%	8.6%
Buckinghamshire PCT	652,120	685,650	65,911	10.6%	2.1%
Bury PCT	282,130	297,647	30,225	11.3%	-3.1%
Calderdale PCT	308,563	325,895	33,418	11.4%	-1.4%
Cambridgeshire PCT	777,313	827,498	90,708	12.3%	-2.1%
Camden PCT	453,989	477,331	45,886	10.6%	12.4%
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	645,100	679,543	67,099	11.0%	0.4%
Central Lancashire PCT	688,006	725,915	73,777	11.3%	-2.2%
City ano Hackney Teaching PCT	472,222	496,502	47,729	10.6%	6.6%
Cornwall and Isles of Stilly PCT	808,369	856,214	94,181	12.4%	-6.2%
County Durham PCT	886,825	935,601	95,008	11.3%	-5.4%
Coventry Teaching PCT	529,616	558,745	56,739	11.3%	-0.3%
Croydon PCT	526,752	553,836	53,240	10.6%	5.1%
Cumbria Teaching PCT	783,807	826,917	83,971	11.3%	-2.0%
Darlington PCT	166,081	174,705	16,913	10.7%	0.9%
Derby City PCT	405,847	428,169	43,479	11.3%	-5.8%
Derbyshire County PCT	1,048,875	1,107,225	118,065	11.9%	-6.2%
Devon PCT	1,088,020	1,152,427	121,128	11.7%	-1.0%
Doncaster PCT	502,312	529,939	53,814	11.3%	-5.5%
Dorset PCT	580,964	613,261	62,584	11.4%	-0.6%
Dudley PCT	461,918	487,324	49,487	11.3%	-3.9%
Ealing PCT	545,775	573,837	55,163	10.6%	8.0%
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	759,311	803,338	83,612	11.6%	-0.6%
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	629,300	663,912	67,419	11.3%	-0.2%
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	432,198	458,519	49,720	12.2%	-6.2%
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	513,310	539,702	51,881	10.6%	2.4%
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,151,643	1,216,563	124,958	11.4%	-0.8%
Enfield PCT	436,718	459,173	44,140	10.6%	2.1%
Gateshead PCT	357,224	376,601	38,000	11.2%	0.1%
Gloucestershire PCT	825,908	868,490	83,597	10.7%	1.3%
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	361,014	381,535	39,341	11.5%	-2.9%
Greenwich Teaching PCT	424,160	445,968	42,871	10.6%	4.0%
Halton and St. Helens PCT	537,116	566,657	57,543	11.3%	-4.5%
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	326,448	343,232	32,995	10.6%	16.2%
Hampshire PCT	1,709,698	1,799,471	175,170	10.8%	0.7%
Haringey Teaching PCT	424,321	446,139	42,887	10.6%	2.1%
Harrow PCT	313,370	329,483	31,673	10.6%	7.4%
Hartlepool PCT	163,405	172,392	17,506	11.3%	-4.3%
Hastings and Rother PCT	303,746	319,363	30,700	10.6%	2.1%
Havering PCT	376,447	396,316	39,278	11.0%	0.5%

2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT Revenue Allocations

	2009-10 Allocation £000s	*2010-11 Allocation £000s*	*Two-year Increase £000s*	*Two-year Increase %*	*2010-11 Closing DFT %*
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	523,451	550,366	52,906	10.6%	10.2%
Herefordshire PCT	256,778	272,050	28,658	11.8%	-3.1%
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	358,484	378,201	38,405	11.3%	0.0%
Hillingdon PCT	379,496	399,009	38,357	10.6%	6.4%
Hounslow PCT	362,964	381,627	36,686	10.6%	5.1%
Hull Teaching PCT	455,982	481,061	48,959	11.3%	-6.0%
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	232,671	245,882	25,341	11.5%	-1.2%
Islington PCT	412,126	433,316	41,655	10.6%	11.7%
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	337,424	354,773	34,104	10.6%	20.4%
Kingston PCT	249,459	262,286	25,213	10.6%	13.5%
Kirklees PCT	598,931	631,872	64,165	11.3%	-1.8%
Knowsley PCT	303,843	320,554	32,552	11.3%	-0.1%
Lambeth PCT	580,017	609,840	58,624	10.6%	14.8%
Leeds PCT	1,169,992	1,235,149	126,152	11.4%	-1.7%
Leicester City PCT	488,731	515,611	58,787	12.9%	-6.1%
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	830,158	879,975	93,096	11.8%	-5.6%
Lewisham PCT	484,939	509,873	49,014	10.6%	12.0%
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,060,265	1,127,697	136,737	13.8%	-6.2%
Liverpool PCT	906,876	953,504	91,817	10.7%	1.7%
Luton PCT	282,841	298,802	30,707	11.5%	-2.4%
Manchester PCT	925,276	979,818	102,780	11.7%	-3.5%
Medway PCT	391,582	412,814	41,635	11.2%	0.2%
Mid Essex PCT	461,830	488,887	51,133	11.7%	-3.5%
Middlesbrough PCT	257,714	271,888	27,610	11.3%	-0.6%
Milton Keynes PCT	315,520	338,522	39,450	13.2%	-3.2%
Newcastle PCT	466,097	490,062	47,110	10.6%	2.8%
Newham PCT	510,371	536,897	51,869	10.7%	0.9%
Norfolk PCT	1,069,968	1,133,968	119,781	11.8%	-5.1%
North East Essex PCT	489,796	520,205	55,943	12.0%	-5.3%
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	259,146	273,399	27,763	11.3%	-1.9%
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	520,037	549,674	56,748	11.5%	-3.7%
North Lincolnshire PCT	238,152	252,197	28,256	12.6%	-6.2%
North Somerset PCT	287,957	306,265	33,320	12.2%	-5.2%
North Staffordshire PCT	316,252	333,646	33,881	11.3%	-2.9%
North Tyneside PCT	345,791	364,810	37,046	11.3%	-1.2%
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,076,587	1,139,019	118,557	11.6%	-2.4%
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	927,249	983,436	104,527	11.9%	-1.4%
Northumberland Care Trust	498,897	526,337	53,448	11.3%	-3.2%
Nottingham City PCT	487,694	514,727	53,945	11.7%	-6.2%
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	943,520	997,415	105,012	11.8%	-6.2%
Oldham PCT	379,096	399,946	40,614	11.3%	-1.4%
Oxfordshire PCT	830,948	873,673	83,986	10.6%	3.2%
Peterborough PCT	244,676	257,356	24,830	10.7%	1.0%
Plymouth Teaching PCT	393,303	416,482	43,682	11.7%	-5.9%
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	311,043	328,095	33,267	11.3%	0.0%
Redbridge PCT	365,515	385,618	39,159	11.3%	-1.1%
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	233,544	246,388	25,020	11.3%	-1.6%
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	267,442	281,193	27,031	10.6%	23.4%
Rotherham PCT	409,554	432,140	45,922	11.9%	-6.2%
Salford PCT	425,994	449,125	45,339	11.2%	0.1%
Sandwell PCT	523,488	552,279	56,083	11.3%	-5.4%
Sefton PCT	479,220	503,861	48,463	10.6%	1.9%
Sheffield PCT	885,052	931,076	90,381	10.8%	0.9%
Shropshire County PCT	412,573	436,629	45,564	11.7%	-3.8%
Solihull Care Trust	294,018	310,080	31,371	11.3%	0.1%
Somerset PCT	751,518	796,505	84,166	11.8%	-2.6%
South Birmingham PCT	587,304	619,168	62,482	11.2%	0.1%
South East Essex PCT	500,226	527,738	53,591	11.3%	-2.2%
South Gloucestershire PCT	323,108	339,722	32,657	10.6%	2.2%

2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT Revenue Allocations

	2009-10 Allocation £000s	*2010-11 Allocation £000s*	*Two-year Increase £000s*	*Two-year Increase %*	*2010-11 Closing DFT %*
South Staffordshire PCT	826,224	873,709	104,752	13.6%	-6.2%
South Tyneside PCT	279,272	294,039	29,326	11.1%	0.5%
South West Essex PCT	602,217	635,283	64,461	11.3%	0.0%
Southampton City PCT	368,298	388,555	39,457	11.3%	-1.9%
Southwark PCT	492,748	518,084	49,803	10.6%	5.7%
Stockport PCT	431,751	453,950	43,638	10.6%	3.4%
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	287,728	303,980	31,252	11.5%	-6.0%
Stoke-on-Trent PCT	451,376	476,202	53,205	12.6%	-5.5%
Suffolk PCT	820,056	869,502	92,277	11.9%	-4.0%
Sunderland Teaching PCT	510,293	537,800	54,110	11.2%	0.2%
Surrey PCT	1,565,807	1,646,316	158,260	10.6%	11.6%
Sutton and Merton PCT	583,188	613,174	58,944	10.6%	9.7%
Swindon PCT	277,524	294,545	31,489	12.0%	-1.3%
Tameside and Glossop PCT	383,015	404,080	41,033	11.3%	-1.5%
Telford and Wrekin PCT	237,482	251,590	26,636	11.8%	-6.2%
Torbay Care Trust	236,008	249,424	25,720	11.5%	-3.4%
Tower Hamlets PCT	447,591	470,605	45,239	10.6%	3.4%
Trafford PCT	340,332	357,831	34,398	10.6%	7.7%
Wakefield District PCT	564,093	595,118	66,463	12.6%	-6.2%
Walsall Teaching PCT	425,164	448,548	45,549	11.3%	-2.2%
Waltham Forest PCT	395,510	415,846	39,977	10.6%	2.2%
Wandsworth PCT	488,965	514,106	49,421	10.6%	14.4%
Warrington PCT	290,666	306,628	31,172	11.3%	-1.4%
Warwickshire PCT	739,819	781,747	80,496	11.5%	-1.4%
West Essex PCT	390,481	410,562	39,470	10.6%	1.6%
West Hertfordshire PCT	773,604	813,380	78,190	10.6%	5.3%
West Kent PCT	926,518	977,459	98,922	11.3%	0.0%
West Sussex PCT	1,172,602	1,232,994	118,518	10.6%	3.7%
Western Cheshire PCT	375,103	394,678	38,320	10.8%	0.8%
Westminster PCT	447,789	470,813	45,259	10.6%	20.8%
Wiltshire PCT	610,462	642,526	62,527	10.8%	0.6%
Wirral PCT	565,696	594,782	57,176	10.6%	2.3%
Wolverhampton City PCT	408,545	431,015	43,769	11.3%	-2.6%
Worcestershire PCT	771,728	815,248	83,752	11.4%	-2.6%
England	80,030,703	84,432,392	8,573,905	11.3%	0.0%

HOME DEPARTMENT

Strategic Policing priorities

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): In July 2008 I was privileged to be able to announce that the British crime survey had shown that the police service, working with its partners, had achieved an 18 per cent. reduction in crime over the last three years. On the same day, I published "From the Neighbourhood to the National", the Government's policing Green Paper, which set out a radical new vision for policing in the 21st century.

The Green Paper set out proposals for the Home Office to take a much more strategic role in policing by moving to a single top-down numerical target for police forces in England and Wales, with the removal of all others set for forces by central Government. This target focuses every force on whether they have the public's confidence that they are identifying and addressing the crime and ASB issues that matter most to their local diverse communities. In addition, building on the reviews of Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Louise Casey, we outlined proposals for reducing bureaucracy and introducing a new policing pledge so that police officers could focus on the public's priorities and provide an accessible, transparent and consistent service that meets public needs and expectations.

It is in this context that I am today putting forward my strategic priorities to the police service for 2009-10. Under the provisions of the Police Reform Act 2002 I am required each year to set out strategic policing priorities (SPPs) for the police service and these provide the national framework within which police authorities then set their local policing plans. This year I have moved away from prioritising specific crimes and I emphasise the strategic context in which local accountability and planning should be undertaken so that forces tackle the issues that matter most locally and get best value for money for the public from the resources devoted to policing.

The move to a new approach has been highlighted in a number of national strategies, such as: the "National Community Safety Plan 2008-11", "Cutting Crime: A

New Partnership 2008-11" and the "National Security Strategy", as well as the PSA cross-Government priorities for 2008-11, especially PSA23, PSA24, PSA25 and PSA 26. In addition, a set of local priorities will underpin the new policing pledge, which will also set out a common national entitlement for what people can expect from the police. It should be emphasised that neither the pledge nor these national strategies contain additional specific top-down numerical targets for forces, and are intended to support forces and authorities in responding to the local priorities that are agreed with local people.

Forces will work collaboratively with local partners—including through crime and disorder reduction partnerships and community safety partnerships—to meet shared local objectives. In England this includes those objectives that are agreed through local strategic partnerships within local area agreements.

I have laid great emphasis on the need to focus on local priorities in the Green Paper but, as its title "From the Neighbourhood to the National" suggests, it also delivers an equally vital message on the importance of delivering the national priorities. I have set out a vision that sees policing delivering a high quality service to the public at all levels, from the local to the regional and on to the national.

For serious and organised crime, I believe there is a continuous line stretching between these levels. This means forces need a continuum of effective policing in response, which relies on effective collaboration and co-ordination among relevant partners; and that means, in turn, forces and authorities working outside and across individual force boundaries.

Our expectation is that forces and authorities will work in the interests of regions and the country and to collaborate to achieve improvements. Collaboration takes various forms, from tackling serious and cross-border crime to the development of the national counter-terrorism network in bringing together intelligence, investigative and operational activity against the terrorist threat. This relies heavily on confidence in policing. The success of a key component of our counter-terrorism strategy—Prevent—depends, in part, in the confidence local communities have in their police service.

There must be a priority on the cohesive view of all aspects of policing, through building confidence in the service, and leading to a more effective police service at all levels. There is little benefit in increasing public confidence through local policing and ignoring protective services. These may be services with less of a public face and more uncertain demand, but they have the potential to impact heavily on public confidence if they fall short.

The Green Paper emphasises that greater collaboration across the police service is essential to mitigate this risk and to realise the necessary improvements in protective services. The same emphasis should apply for specialist crimes.

In summary, the SPPs for 2009-10 are to:

Continue to increase public confidence in the police through tackling local priorities; also to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and help tackle the problems caused by drug and alcohol misuse, in line with PSAs 23 and 25, and in a co-ordinated approach with other CJS partners deliver an effective criminal justice response in line with PSA24;

Work jointly with police forces and other agencies, such as SOCA and UKBA, to ensure that the capability and capacity exists across England and Wales to deliver effective protective services, including tackling serious and organised crime;

Work with and through partners and local communities to tackle terrorism and violent extremism in line with the counter terrorism strategy—Contest—and PSA 26; and

Work in all of the above, in line with the efficiency and productivity strategy for the police service, to ensure the best use of resources to deliver: significant cashable improvements; more effective deployment of the work force; and to realise benefits of new technology.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Helena

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): DFID and Her Majesty's Treasury are in continuing discussions about issues of concern regarding access to St. Helena. As a result, there will be a pause in negotiations over the St. Helena airport contract. The Government of St. Helena and relevant commercial parties have been advised of the situation and will be kept updated.

JUSTICE

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): In July this year, my predecessor the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) announced that Ministers had decided to implement the recommendations of the independent review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody, 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 75 WS. The review itself was made public in February of this year.

The review made recommendations for significant reforms to the existing structures. Its central recommendation was the establishment of a three tier body, the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody. A ministerial board, which I will chair jointly with ministerial colleagues from Department of Health and Home Office, will include the heads of key agencies and will form the first of the three-tiers. The Board's principal source of advice and recommendations will be an independent advisory panel on deaths in custody, which will form the second tier. The panel will be independently chaired and made up of experts in relevant fields.

Following a recruitment process conducted in line with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, I am pleased to announce the appointment of my noble Friend Lord Harris of Haringey as the first chair of the panel. Lord Harris has considerable experience of the criminal justice system and other areas of public service. The panel will play an important role in helping to shape Government policy in the area of deaths in custody. As panel chair, Lord Harris will be influential in setting the panel's objectives, its programme of work and the tone for its relationships with other stakeholders. The new ministerial council will become operational from April 2009. Lord Harris will undertake some early work to ensure a smooth transition from current arrangements. I look forward to working with him.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's Ninth Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today laid before the House a copy of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's annual report and accounts for the year 2007-08 which was published today, in accordance with schedule 7, paragraph 5(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

This is the ninth annual report published by the Commission.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I will attend the second Transport Council of the French presidency, which takes place in Brussels on 9 December.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a regulation amending the four regulations adopted in 2004, which established the single European sky (SES). As well as consolidating the original SES package, the proposal aims to strengthen the network approach and introduces environmental performance. It offers a pragmatic solution to the drive towards improved performance of the European air traffic management system. While reflecting the need to set performance targets at an EU level, it allows member states to generate their own national plans to contribute to the targets. Furthermore, it recognises the need to examine pan-European network aspects by introducing the role of a network management function to facilitate greater co-operation in the use of scarce resources. In general terms, the UK is content with the draft general approach text being put to the Council.

The Council will be given a progress report and may be asked to reach a partial general approach on an amending regulation extending the responsibilities and competencies of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). EASA was initially responsible only for the airworthiness of aircraft. Its responsibilities were widened to include air operations, flight crew licensing and the oversight of third-country aircraft earlier in 2008. The present draft regulation extends EASA's responsibilities to the safety of aerodromes, air traffic management (ATM) and air navigation services (ANS), as part of the single European sky initiative. Responsibility for implementing the rules is to remain with member states. The Government broadly support the proposal to extend EASA's remit, but we consider that there are a number of technical areas where the proposal could be improved. These include clearer applicability and scope for aerodrome safety and a clearer licensing framework for aerodrome operators. The negotiations to date have focused on the ATM/ANS aspects of the proposal, and member states are keen to ensure that the regulation builds on the existing regulatory system established under the single European sky initiative.

The final item of the aviation agenda is in external relations. The Council will be asked to adopt two decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards comprehensive aviation agreements with Tunisia and Algeria. The UK supports the mandates which are in line with others given to the Commission recently to negotiate comprehensive aviation agreements with a number of Mediterranean countries.

In the first of two items on land transport, the Council will be invited to reach a general approach on a directive amending the 1999 directive on charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of infrastructure—the Eurovignette directive. The UK is broadly supportive of the intention behind the directive, which is to allow member states more flexibility to apply the "polluter pays" principle within any lorry charges they may choose to introduce. Some member states are arguing that it is too soon to reach agreement so the likelihood of an outcome is uncertain. The UK opposes the Commission's proposal for mandatory earmarking of revenues for transport and associated spending.

The Council will be given a progress report on the proposed directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety. This was debated initially at the October Council, when the UK expressed its view that it should be a third pillar—Justice and Home Affairs—measure. The majority of member states were in agreement with this, and the UK has continued to take this line in Council negotiations. The UK view is that the progress report should make it clear that full consideration will be given to a third-pillar approach. This represents the best prospect for real progress towards achieving the improvements in road safety that we all want to see.

The presidency plans to put draft conclusions to the Council, arising from the Commission's communications on the greening of transport, the strategy for the internalisation of external costs in transport and the reduction of rail noise on existing rolling stock. I expect to be able to agree to the conclusions.

The Council will be asked to adopt a resolution on the establishment of a European regional data centre for the long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) of ships. This will be an implementation in Europe of a safety of life at sea (SOLAS) regulation, adopted by IMO in 2006. I expect to be able to agree to the resolution.

MOT Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published an analysis of the costs and benefits of the MOT scheme in response to a Davidson review recommendation on the subject.

Our analysis suggests that a significant number of additional road traffic accidents would be likely if MOT test frequency was reduced. This is primarily because the annual MOT failure rate is already high—around 35 per cent.—and if we were to reduce test frequency there is a very real risk that the number of unroadworthy cars would increase significantly. In turn, the number of road casualties would inevitably increase.

Clearly any significant increase in road traffic accidents or in the number of road casualties would be a wholly unacceptable outcome; and, for that reason, our view is that the MOT test frequency should remain unchanged.

I have placed copies of the document in the Library of the House. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 9 December 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The ECOFIN Council met on Tuesday 2 December 2008. The Chancellor and the Economic Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK. The following items were discussed:

Preparation of the December European Council

Finance Ministers discussed and agreed ECOFIN's input to the European Council. The contribution covers the Commission's European Economic Recovery Plan, which included recommendations regarding macroeconomic policies and structural reforms, and guidance regarding the implementation of SGP. Input on the response to the international financial crisis was discussed, following up on both the informal meeting of Heads Of State or Government on 7 November, and the Washington summit on 15 November. On both these workstreams, the Government are fully supportive of a Europe in favour of the need for economic reform and financial stability.

Reduced rates of VAT

Following discussions at the September informal and meetings in October and November, Ministers held a brief discussion on reduced rates of VAT. Discussion was focused on a French presidency compromise text based on the Commission's July proposal to allow reduced rates for a specified set of goods and services. The UK believes that member states should be allowed the flexibility to apply reduced rates of VAT where they do not materially affect the functioning of the single market. The presidency concluded that unanimity was not achievable at this meeting. Further discussion is expected to take place under the Czech presidency.

Taxation of savings

ECOFIN agreed a set of conclusions on the ongoing extension of the savings directive, in line with the Government's view to include a reasonable extension to the scope of the directive while seeking to minimise any unnecessary additional burdens placed on business as a result of changes to the directive. Ministers agreed that negotiations should continue with non-EU financial centres to apply equivalent measures. The Government believe that the directive is an important tool in fighting tax fraud and continue to support its extension.

Code of conduct on business taxation

The code of conduct group works to implement Finance Ministers' political commitment (endorsed at the December 1997 ECOFIN) to tackle harmful tax competition. Following agreement at a recent code of conduct meeting, ECOFIN adopted the code group's future work package. The Government continue to support the work of the group to tackle harmful tax competition.

Presentation by the Court of Auditors of the annual report 2007

The European Court of Auditors presented ECOFIN with the annual report on the implementation of the EC Budget for the financial year 2007. While some progress had been made, the court was unable to provide a clean bill of health for the majority of expenditure. The Commission emphasised the responsibility of member states. Work by the UK and three other member states on national declarations was welcomed, and the Commission confirmed that a communication on tolerable risk would issue shortly. ECOFIN will hold a further discussion in February regarding the Council's recommendation to the European Parliament on discharging the Budget.

Valuation Office Agency

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Following Cabinet Office guidance, the Valuation Office Agency will be reviewed by its parent Department, HM Revenue and Customs. Copies of the terms of reference have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The review will invite comments from interested stakeholders and more details can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk/consult/voa.htm

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Barbara Follett): A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 20 and 21 November. The Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones, represented the UK for the cultural and audiovisual agenda items taken on the morning of 20 November.

The Council adopted the conclusions on a new European heritage label. A number of member states welcomed the new label as adding value to existing initiatives such as the UNESCO world heritage list. Initially the UK had some concerns about the European heritage label, but these were adequately addressed in the final text of the conclusions. The UK was able to support their adoption, in particular the voluntary nature of the scheme. The Commission will now bring forward a legislative proposal in 2010.

Council conclusions on the contribution of architecture to sustainable development were agreed. The UK supported the adoption of the conclusions as they reflect the UK's approach to architecture, sustainable design, and built environment education. The forthcoming Swedish presidency announced they would build on this with a conference towards the end of 2009.

The role of culture in the external relations of the EU was also discussed at the Council meeting. The member states that intervened agreed that culture was an important element of relations with third countries and that the UNESCO convention on the diversity of cultural expressions should be the basis for EU action. The UK was content with this outcome and supported the adoption of the conclusions. However, some member states felt that more needed to be done to ensure equality of all EU languages and called for a declaration to this end. These countries were also critical of the Commission for the lack of translation of some documents they produce.

These issues were again raised during the discussion of section 4 of the resolution on multilingualism and translation. In particular, some member states wanted assurances that a presidency background note that called for new EU activity on translation (including a possible new centre for translation) was not binding. The UK intervened in Welsh to show its support for the multilingualism agenda, but also to support the scepticism expressed about a new European translation centre.

Ministers adopted conclusions on Europeana, the European digital library, and were supportive of this new cultural resource. The UK welcomed the aspiration to digitise European content and to increase accessibility to our shared cultural heritage and supported the adoption of these conclusions. During the discussion concerns were raised about the possible impact on the availability of content of Commission proposals to extend copyright term from 50 to 95 years.

The Council also adopted conclusions on legal offers of online cultural content and combating piracy. It was agreed that copyright protection was central to this process. The text of the conclusions is in line with UK national priorities.

Under any other business, the presidency and Commission presented the Council with updates on European archives and the safer internet programme. Sweden raised concerns about the Commission communication on state aid to public service broadcasting. Germany raised an information point on support for digitisation of cinemas. There were no discussions following any of these items.

The Czech Minister presented the priorities for the forthcoming Czech presidency in the fields of culture and audiovisual. Culture priorities included discussing the role of culture in achieving the Lisbon objectives; strengthening links with civil society; and celebrating the 2009 year of creativity and innovation and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the iron curtain. Audiovisual priorities included the digitisation of cultural content.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): Further to the answer given on 5 November 2008 (*Official Report*, column 574), I wish to clarify that National Grid does publish a breakdown of electricity generation projects by generation type that have a connection offer of 2015 or earlier. This information is provided in t able 3.5 of National Grid's seven year statement, available at http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/SYS/.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Exotic Animal Diseases

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): The National Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases has been laid before Parliament today in accordance with Section 14a of the Animal Health Act 2002, which came into force on 24 March 2003.

This plan is sets out the operational arrangements DEFRA will put in place to deal with any occurrence of foot and mouth disease, avian influenza or Newcastle disease. The plan also applicable to other exotic animal diseases. It is composed of two elements: DEFRA's framework response plan for exotic animal diseases, outlining the systems, and structures which are established and detailing the key roles and responsibilities of Ministers and officials during an outbreak of disease; and DEFRA's overview of emergency preparedness which provides details of our preparedness and operational response.

It replaces DEFRA's exotic animal disease generic contingency plan which was laid before Parliament on 10 December 2007.

DEFRA's contingency plan is very much a 'living document'. It will be subject to ongoing revision taking on the latest developments in science, research, and epidemiological modelling together with lessons identified from outbreaks.

To meet the provisions of the Animal Health Act, the plan will also be subject to formal annual review.

HEALTH

Tobacco Legislation

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Smoking remains the single greatest cause of preventable death and is one of the primary causes of health inequality in the United Kingdom. The Government have an important responsibility to protect children and young people from smoking. We remain particularly concerned that in Great Britain, nearly seven in 10 adults who have ever smoked regularly say that they started smoking regularly before they were 18 years old.

Over the past decade, the Government have achieved a great deal in tobacco control. To build on this success in promoting public health, the Government have committed to develop a new national tobacco control strategy.

To guide the development of this new strategy, the Department published the consultation on the future of tobacco control in May 2008 to enable stakeholders and the wider public to provide input from the earliest stages. Today we published a report summarising the more than 96,000 responses the Department received. The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The Government now intend to bring forward primary legislation in two areas of tobacco control to protect children and young people from smoking.

We will bring to an end the practice of exposing children to the ubiquitous promotion of tobacco products in retail environments by removing the display of tobacco at the point of sale. According to Cancer Research UK, since the ban on advertising of tobacco introduced by the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002, display of tobacco in retail environments has become the primary source of tobacco marketing for young people. We believe that taking action on display of tobacco at the retail point of sale should not represent a significant financial burden on retailers.

We also plan further controls on the sale of tobacco from vending machines, by seeking powers to either remove machines or require age restrictions to limit the easy access young people have to this source of tobacco. Vending machines are one of the most common and easily accessible sources of cigarettes for young people.

Before bringing legislation on point of sale display and tobacco vending machines into force, the Government will work closely with retailers and other stakeholders to develop regulations setting out detailed requirements. We will aim to ensure requirements do not place unnecessary costs or burdens on the retail industry. We will also ensure ample lead-in time before any legislation is commenced to support businesses to prepare.

As part of their consultation, the Government also sought views on whether to bring forward innovative proposals on tobacco packaging. We believe that more needs to be done to develop our understanding of how the packaging of tobacco products influences smoking by both adults and young people. The Government will therefore keep tobacco packaging under close review.

The significant health risks associated with smoking are well documented. We believe these proposals are an important, effective and proportionate step in protecting children and young people from the dangers of tobacco use.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Race Monitor

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has today laid before Parliament the fifth and final annual report produced under section 19E of the Race Relations Act 1976 by Mary Coussey, the Independent Race Monitor. Copies of the report and her response are available in the Vote Office. The Independent Race Monitor has a statutory duty to report to Parliament through the Home Secretary on ministerial authorisations made under section 19D of the Race Relations Act enabling immigration staff to discriminate on the basis of nationality or ethnic or national origin in the exercise of their functions. The position of Race Monitor has now been abolished and its functions have been included in those of a new position of chief inspector. My right hon. Friend and I would like to place on record our thanks to Mary Coussey for the work she carried out as the Race Monitor.

Fingerprint Checks

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, in the light of a sharp increase in applications to the Border and Immigration Agency from inadequately documented individuals who claim to be North Korean in 2007, and intelligence indicating that significant numbers of these may hold South Korean citizenship gained through the South Korean "new settlers" scheme, which provides citizenship to all North Koreans who request it within the South Korean territory.

The authorisation will enable the Secretary of State to forward to the South Korean authorities fingerprints of inadequately documented individuals who claim to be North Korean, for the purposes of checking against their national fingerprint database and ascertaining their citizenship.

With the valued co-operation from the South Korean Government, this authorisation will facilitate the return to South Korea of those individuals who come to the UK and falsely claim to only hold North Korean citizenship and who do in fact hold South Korean citizenship.

The authorisation will be reviewed in one year and will be revoked if it is established that there is no longer justification for the authorisation.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Language Analysis

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Afghanistan submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. We are aware that a proportion of Afghan claims also are from other nationalities. This new authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Afghan cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within this nationality.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for five months—until April 2009—at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Seven Year Child Concession

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The United Kingdom Border Agency is withdrawing DP5/96, a concession which has also been referred to as the seven year child concession, as of 9 December 2008. The concession set out the criteria to be applied when considering whether enforcement action should proceed or be initiated against parents of a child who was born here and has lived continuously to the age of seven or over, or where, having come to the UK at an early age, they have accumulated seven years or more continuous residence. The original purpose and need for the concession has been overtaken by the Human Rights Act and changes to immigration rules. The fact that a child has spent a significant period of their life in the United Kingdom will continue to be an important relevant factor to be taken into account by case workers when evaluating whether removal of their parents is appropriate. Any decision to remove a family from the UK will continue to be made in accordance with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Immigration Rules.

The withdrawal of DP5/96 and replacing it with consideration under the Immigration Rules and article 8 of the ECHR will ensure a fairer, more consistent approach to all cases involving children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, across UKBA. Withdrawing the policy will also prevent those overstaying or unlawfully present in the UK having the benefit of a concession which does not apply to those persons who comply with the Immigration Rules and remain in the UK lawfully.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Social Welfare) Order 2009 dealing with carers has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7505). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 10 December 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

The Play Strategy

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Fun and exciting opportunities to play are at the heart of a happy, healthy and enjoyable childhood. Better outdoor play opportunities are good for children, good for families and good for communities.

Time and space to play safely is integral to delivering our children's plan ambition to make England the best country in the world for children and young people to grow up in—it is vital to children's physical, emotional, social and educational development.

Today, with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, I am delighted to publish the first national play strategy for England, backed by the children's plan investment of £235 million. This investment will mean that every residential area has a variety of high-quality places for all children to play safely, and free of charge.

An accelerated roll-out of our new investment will mean that children across the country will be able to benefit sooner from improved play sites, and £30 million due to be spent in 2010-11 will now be brought forward to 2009-10 as part of Government action to support the country during the economic downturn. This means that every local authority will have been offered at least £1 million capital funding by April 2009, which they can begin spending in line with local plans and supported by our national delivery partner, Play England.

The strategy sets out in more detail how we will deliver our capital investment programme from 2008 to 2011 so that up to 3,500 new and refurbished play sites and 30 large staffed adventure playgrounds will be built to reflect the needs of children, parents and the local community.

The Government's action is a direct response to demands from children, young people and their families for better play facilities in every area. In April, our "Fair Play" consultation set out an ambitious range of proposals to make a reality of our vision for world-class play opportunities.

This consultation attracted an overwhelming response, with 9,400 children and young people letting us know how they would like Government to support their play—12 per cent. of these responses came from disabled children, reinforcing the need to do even more to make sure that we make play accessible for all children, regardless of their circumstances.

The enthusiastic support for our proposals in the "Fair Play" consultation underpins the play strategy. The play strategy sets out Government's commitment to:

put children and young people's views at the heart of the design and development of local neighbourhoods—and their consultation as a central requirement of new investment in local play areas;

help local authorities deliver the exciting play spaces that children want;

inform parents and children about local play opportunities;

improve access for disabled children so that they can benefit fully from our investment in play facilities;

put in place clear requirements on school capital programmes around outdoor play and recreational spaces;

put children's play needs at the heart of new residential and social housing developments;

ensure children are safe when they travel around and play in their neighbourhoods, including by working with the third sector and community policing to improve the supervision of children playing;

invest in the workforce who support and supervise play—enabling 4,000 playworkers to achieve a level 3 play work qualification by 2011;

invest £1.5 million in third sector-run adventure playgrounds and provide funding to help build third sector infrastructure; and

introduce a new national indicator for play from 2009 for local authorities, which will measure children satisfaction with parks and play areas.

The first new outdoor play areas are already being built across the country. We want to maintain this momentum, making sure that every local authority works to improve levels of satisfaction that communities have with their local provision.

As a result of our investment and the implementation of this play strategy, led locally by children's trusts, we want at least 100,000 more children to tell us every year that their local play areas and parks are good or very good. Increasing levels of satisfaction in every local authority will show us that we are successful in developing more child-friendly communities, which value children's play and provide better environments for children and young people to enjoy.

We know that we can only achieve our vision for play in 2020 by working in partnership with local and national delivery partners, including the third sector, and by putting children, young people and their parents at the heart of the design and development of neighbourhood provision.

We hope to build on the huge interest and engagement with our consultation earlier this year to deliver the improvement in local facilities that every family wants.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government are today announcing the local authority allocations for the Disabled Facilities Grant programme, making available £157 million for the Disabled Facilities Grant programme in England for 2009-10, an increase of 7 per cent. on the amount for 2008-09. Over 230 local authorities will receive an increase in their allocation. A table detailing the funds provided to individual authorities has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Disabled Facilities Grant programme has seen successive increases in funding in recent years, increasing from £57 million in 1997 to £146 million in 2008-09. The Disabled Facilities Grant programme helps around 37,000 disabled and older people each year to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their own homes through the provision of adaptations. The Disabled Facilities Grant programme provides mandatory grants for housing adaptations including improving access to a home and to the basic facilities within a home such as the provision of ramps, door widening, stair lifts and level access showers.

Following publication in the summer of "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans" (Cm 7424), we have now changed the Disabled Facilities Grant regulations in order to help the most severely disabled ex-service personnel by disregarding Ministry of Defence compensation schemes from the Disabled Facilities Grant financial test. This is in recognition of the unique contribution service personnel make to society. The change will come into force on 31 December 2008.

Local authorities are being informed of their individual allocations. Details of the amount awarded to each authority will be available on the CLG website.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Listed Events (Review)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I have today appointed David Davies OBE as the independent Chairman to carry out a review of the listed events regime and to make recommendations to me about the future and content of the UK's list. The Chairman will lead an advisory group, whose membership will be broadly drawn and include sporting, broadcasting and wider business expertise. The group will also have a perspective from the devolved nations. The Chairman and advisory group will be supported by a project team within my Department.

I have agreed that the review should cover three main areas:

The principle of having a list;

The criteria against which events may be listed; and

The content of any list itself.

The review process will include consultation with broadcasters, rights holders and the public as appropriate. The review will also take account of relevant research.

The advisory group will bring forward recommendations to me in the second half of next year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food Security

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): In July of this year, I published a discussion paper entitled "Ensuring UK Food Security in a Changing World". I wanted to start a debate on the long-term challenges to our food security such as climate change, increased demand—particularly for some foods—and the energy dependence of our food supply. I also wanted to assess the impact of shorter term issues, including export bans and rises in commodity prices, that are in part a consequence of these same challenges.

Annual food price inflation has now decreased from a peak of 14.5 per cent. in August 2008 to 11.2 per cent. in November. We expect it to continue to decline over the coming months, reflecting the falls we have seen in oil and commodity prices. The UK feed wheat price currently stands at £88 per tonne, less than half the peak of £185 back in March. Pig prices have edged down over recent weeks, where the change in the value of sterling continues to offset the impact of declining wider EU market prices, whilst cattle and sheep prices have remained relatively level. The average farm gate milk price in September—the latest month for which figures are available—was 27 per litre, 17 per cent. higher than a year earlier, but we have seen price falls in many dairy commodity markets over recent months. The proportion of income spent on food by the UK's poorest 20 per cent. went up from 15.5 per cent. to 16.5 per cent. at the peak of food price inflation and is not likely to have changed substantially since July. We are doing further work to see what this has meant for food purchasing decisions.

We received over 100 written responses to July's paper and held three workshops. It was clear that many people, from producers to retailers and consumers, feel strongly about agriculture and food. A wide range of views were expressed ranging from support for intensive farming to calls for a radical rethinking about the relationship between traditional agricultural inputs and the food we produce. Issues raised included landscapes, water, food distribution, agricultural research, nutrition, and skills in farming and food sciences.

Many of those responding agreed that we should not base our food security policy on the pursuit of self-sufficiency, and the debate has shifted to a broader discussion of the complex factors that contribute to our food security. Twenty six countries—including our own—provide 90 per cent. of our food consumption, with the majority coming from other EU countries. In addition, inputs to food production such as oil, fertiliser and feed, are globally traded commodities. Trade with developing countries is also important, and respondents agreed that the Government needed to continue to pursue both radical CAP reform, and an agreement from the current Doha trade round. Nonetheless, UK production does—and will in the future—provide an important contribution to our food supply, which varies widely across sectors, from 10 per cent. in fruit, to over 100 per cent. in cereals.

As a result of all the comments we have had on our discussion paper, it seems clear that food security is most usefully looked at in terms of the resilience of our food supply chains, access to safe, nutritious, affordable and diverse foods, and ensuring the long-term environmental sustainability of the food and farming sector. Our agri-food sector, from farm gate to retail is hugely important. It is worth £79 billion and employs 3.7 million people.

I am today announcing that the membership of The Council of Food Policy Advisers, which I have established to support our work on food security, affordability and sustainability, under the Chairmanship of Dame Suzi Leather, will be:

Sir Don Curry

Sue Davies, MBE

Professor Elizabeth Dowler

Professor Gareth Edwards-Jones

Iain Ferguson, CBE

Paul Kelly

Professor Tim Lang

Guy McCracken

Claire Pritchard

Dame Fiona Reynolds

Geetie Singh

Tim Smith

Stefan Tangermann

Additional members will be announced later.

I will ask the council to advise on what may be necessary in future to ensure that we have a secure and sustainable food system in the UK. I will also invite the council to examine the draft indicators for food security that DEFRA has been developing in the light of the responses we have had. We will continue to work with stakeholders as we develop these and consider broader risks to our food security.

The UK's food security is strongly linked to global food security. The Foresight project on the future of food and farming, conducted by the Government's chief scientific adviser, Professor John Beddington, is looking to 2050 and examining how we will feed a global population of 9 billion healthily, equitably, and sustainably, and what implications this has for UK policy.

Part of the answer lies in promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture throughout the world. The Government will continue to support this, drawing on domestic and international research and expertise including this year's International agricultural assessment headed by Professor Bob Watson, DEFRA's chief scientific adviser.

In addition, the Government will continue to press for the establishment of a Global Partnership For Agriculture And Food Security (GPAFS). GPAFS will bring together Governments, international institutions and civil society to help develop national and international plans for agriculture, food security and nutrition and support increased sustainable agricultural production.

I also welcome the EFRA Select Committee's announcement that they will be holding an inquiry into the strengths and weaknesses of the UK food system, and the opportunities and challenges the country faces in responding to the global demand for increased food production. DEFRA looks forward to submitting evidence.

The Government are committed to ensuring sustainable food security in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing global population. To do so will require leadership in the UK, co-operation with other countries and a transformation in our international institutions. I will update the House as this work develops.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Education Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. Siôn Simon): I represented the UK at the Education Council, on behalf of DIUS and DCSF.

Summary

The council adopted resolutions on multilingualism and on lifelong guidance. The Council also agreed conclusions on co-operation on schools; vocational education and training; and youth mobility. The texts of all the dossiers adopted are in line with UK national priorities.

Council

A resolution was adopted on multilingualism which recognises the value of multilingualism both in terms of personal development and to the economy. The UK agrees with these overall goals, but has worked to ensure that the definition of multilingualism is as wide as possible, including world languages and less widely used European languages.

Ministers agreed conclusions on enhanced co-operation in vocational education and training.

These conclusions form the latest review of the Copenhagen process which was designed to improve European co-operation on vocational education and training. Commissioner Figel noted that their communication "New Skills for New Jobs", to be published on 16 December, would have a key role to play in linking vocational education and training to the labour market.

A resolution was adopted on guidance in lifelong learning. This resolution aims to strengthen the role of guidance within countries' national lifelong learning strategies and to strengthen European co-operation in this field. A ministerial debate flagged the wide range of approaches underway in different countries. I highlighted the new Apprenticeships Bill and the adult advancement and careers service as examples of the work the UK is doing.

Ministers adopted conclusions on European co-operation on schools, which propose areas of focus for future co-operation at a European level on schools through the open method of co-ordination. The conclusions acknowledge that the responsibility for organising school systems and education policy lies entirely with member states. All who spoke welcomed the text and agreed that, although this was an area of member state competence, the EU had a useful co-ordination role in helping countries to meet their 2010 goals in education and training under the Lisbon strategy. By the end of this year, the commission would also publish their draft priorities in the area of education and training for the period up to 2020.

Ministers adopted conclusions on youth mobility, which seek to increase the numbers of young people spending a period of time abroad through undertaking part of their studies participating in EU mobility programmes. Ministers discussed the importance of mobility both for the development of individuals and also for the labour market. I highlighted our increasing numbers of Erasmus participants, the aim to widen participation to less advantaged groups, and the increased language learning among teachers.

The presidency presented updates on the adoption of a new credit system in vocational training, quality assurance in vocational training, and the next phase of the Erasmus Mundus programme. The Commission presented information on the Europa diary; learning to learn; collaborative working with India and Israel; and on the Euroskills event held in Rotterdam in September. Portugal and Poland announced their bids to host the 2010 Euroskills event. I welcomed the Rotterdam event and noted that we would host Worldskills in London in 2011. The Czech Minister presented the Czech Republic's presidency priorities in the field of education. These comprised the future strategy in education and training post-2010; encouraging partnerships between education and employers; and pressing for progress in higher education via the Bologna process.

EU Informal Meeting (Bordeaux)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. Siôn Simon): The meeting was chaired by the French Minister for Education, Xavier Darcos. Win Harris, director of the DCSF/DIUS/DWP Joint International Unit represented the UK. The meeting focused on co-operation in vocational education and training for 2008-10.

Ministers adopted the Bordeaux Communiqué which laid out the vocational training objectives for Europe up to 2010. Based on conclusions adopted at the 21 November Education Council, it outlines four priorities in this field:

implementing the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), together with the future European Quality Assurance Reference Framework;

attracting students into vocational training;

improving links between vocational training and the labour market;

improving European co-operation in this field, in particular by increasing peer-learning activities.

The full Communiqué is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news1087_en.htm

Ministers noted the "Copenhagen process" launched in 2002 had resulted in the development of the tools outlined in the communiqué. Such tools enabled comparability of vocational education qualifications, and flexible learning through credit transfer. As a consequence, many education systems now measured learning outcomes rather than inputs, and the numbers of vocational education students were rising.

An exchange of views on future skills requirements in Europe highlighted the challenges of long-term changes to employment structures, the increased mobility of individuals, and demographic change. Better anticipation of skills needs would allow both education systems and employers to respond effectively to the needs of the labour market.

The afternoon session of the meeting was chaired by Valérie Pecrèsse, French Minister for Higher Education. Following discussion, Ministers endorsed the European Universities Association's "Charter on Lifelong Learning"—a publication outlining ideas for universities and Governments to increase universities' contribution to lifelong learning.

JUSTICE

Persistent Young Offenders

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The PYO pledge was one of the Government's key manifesto commitments in 1997. Not only has it succeeded in demonstrating to persistent young offenders that their behaviour has consequences and those consequences follow quickly, but it has also improved the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice agencies in working together to tackle young offenders. In 1997 the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders was 142 days. We have bettered our pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence to 71 days and in 2007 we achieved 65 days, the lowest annual figure since the pledge was introduced in 1997.

The pledge was the first cross-criminal justice system target, and has been an excellent catalyst in bringing criminal justice agencies together to ensure that PYOs are dealt with expeditiously. Alongside the pledge, the criminal justice system is now delivering on a wide range of performance indicators and public service agreement commitments, such as increasing the proportion of serious offences brought to justice and improving public confidence in the criminal justice system.

We now want to build on the success of the pledge by concentrating on the most high-risk youth offenders. The PYO pledge focused on young, prolific offenders, but only after they had been convicted three times. We do not want to wait until a young offender receives multiple convictions before deciding that they are a priority for the attention of criminal justice agencies. We made clear in the "Youth Crime Action Plan" published earlier this year that the priority for the criminal justice system is to target those young people most at risk of offending. The success of the PYO pledge means that we will start from a strong position that should ensure that the benefits gained in terms of speed through the system and cross-agency working will not be lost.

From next year, we will be asking criminal justice agencies to focus their efforts on a single priority group of young offenders deemed to pose the highest risk. The group will be identified locally by youth offending teams who will determine who should be targeted under the area's prolific and priority offender programme. These offenders will be prioritised through the criminal justice process, with the application of a premium service by the agencies, and in terms of sentencing interventions. This new approach to addressing youth offending behaviour will be supported by performance measures focused on reducing the reoffending of this group, and on improving their timeliness through the criminal justice system. The reoffending measure will enable us to monitor performance on reducing the rate of reoffending (by comparing rates of reoffending as measured by recorded convictions). The timeliness measure will enable monitoring, of the time through the system from arrest to conclusion (whether in the youth court or the Crown court). To supplement these performance measures, we will also use the Ministry of Justice's time intervals survey to monitor expected improvements in timeliness of all youth cases through youth courts, as a result of the recent introduction of the criminal justice simple, speedy, summary initiative in youth courts.

This new approach means that for the first time, we will be targeting the combined efforts of the criminal justice agencies in a more holistic way on managing the offending of a common group of priority young offenders with an explicit focus on reducing their reoffending. The new approach will ensure the engagement of a wider partnership of agencies, both within and outside the criminal justice system, in working with and prioritising these young people, the continuation of interventions beyond the end of their time in the youth justice system, and a managed transition to adult services as they turn 18.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform will monitor and report on performance both in terms of reoffending and timeliness, and will support and challenge the 42 local criminal justice boards which have responsibility for delivering the new approach. It will agree local levels of ambition with them, consistent with the performance management approach adopted across the wider "Justice for All" public service agreement 24 target as a whole.

I am therefore, today, announcing the conclusion of the Persistent Young Offenders (PYO) Pledge from the end of December 2008, and the plans we have to continue to deal with those young offenders whose behaviour causes the greatest damage and distress to law-abiding citizens.

Corston Report (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): The Government's response to the report by Baroness Corston of "A Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System" (Cm 7261) was published on 6 December 2007. This was followed by a written ministerial statement and a progress report I issued on 24 June 2008 (*Official Report*, Col. 7WS) outlining developments made over the last six months.

A year on since the Government's response was published, I am today updating Parliament and publishing a report on significant progress made since June 2008, detailing our continued commitment to bring about real improvements for women offenders. I have placed copies of the progress report in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

My new role as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Government Equalities Office alongside my continued role with the Ministry of Justice has created further synergies to strengthen the cross-Government joint working that is fundamental to the success of this agenda. I am pleased to report on the significant actions which we have been able to deliver against the commitments made in the Government's response and the wider work we are undertaking to take this agenda further forward beyond the Corston commitments:

The Ministry of Justice is committed to providing additional resourcing in the new year to divert vulnerable women who are not serious or dangerous offenders from custody. We plan to reduce the number of women in prison and to provide additional services in the community for women offenders and women at risk of offending. The resources will be used to build capacity of one-stop shop services and to develop further bail support services better to meet the needs of women. Baroness Corston was convinced that one-stop shop services delivered through women's centres provide the radical new women-centred approach her review called for. The Ministry of Justice has been working with regional offender managers—and directors of offender management—as well as the Griffins Society to map existing provision and develop a picture of where there is potential to develop capacity. It is proposed to invest in existing third sector providers to enable them to work with courts, police, probation and other statutory agencies to provide support and services to vulnerable women in the criminal justice system.

Pilots on a conditional caution specifically for women developed in joint co-operation between the Government, local police, prosecutors and "Together Women" centres—presenting a chance for diversion at an early stage—were launched in September 2008. The pilots are running in Leeds, Bradford, Keighley and Liverpool for a period of six months and early indications are positive. The condition attached to the caution commits the woman to attend a "Together Women" centre for a full needs assessment, providing them with an opportunity to address the causes of their offending.

Following successful pilots, using the new model women's full search, the National Offender Management Service is now implementing the introduction of the new arrangements for full searching—as set out in Prison Service Instruction 38/2008—to all women's prisons. The new arrangements do not require the removal of underwear unless there is intelligence or suspicion at any stage that an item is concealed. To date this has taken place at HMP Downview, HMP Send, HMP Morton Hall, HMP Styal, HMP East Sutton Park, HMP Peterborough, HMP Bronzefield and HMP New Hall. All women's prisons will be on stream by 1 April 2009.

In October 2008 a probation circular providing guidance for greater use of female approved premises was issued. This encourages greater use of capacity in female premises by introducing flexibility into the admissions criteria to include women who may not necessarily present a high risk of harm to others. Such women could also benefit from the supervised, structured and supportive environment available. We are expecting to see an increase in numbers of women accessing them in the near future.

In July 2008 the independent Sentencing Advisory Panel published its consultation paper on the overarching principles of sentencing. The panel was asked by the Sentencing Guidelines Council to review the definitive guidelines "Overarching Principles: Seriousness and New Sentences: Criminal Justice Act 2003". The consultation paper contains an important discussion of the principles of sentencing of women offenders. Further work needs to be done to understand current sentencing practice but we welcome the steps the panel has taken.

Lord Bradley's review into the diversion of offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities is due to report to Government early in the new year. The review considers women offenders and the ongoing programme of work from the Corston report has formed part of the evidence Lord Bradley is considering. The Government welcome Lord Bradley's review and accepted recommendations will be taken forward in the offender health and social care strategy, currently being developed by Government for publication in the summer.

The cross-departmental criminal justice women's strategy unit now includes representatives from the Attorney-General's Office, Government Equalities Office and the Department of Health, and we are continuing to negotiate with other Departments to contribute resources. The unit informs the work of the ministerial sub-group on implementation of the Government's response to Corston; which has recently expanded its membership to include Ministers from both the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Department for Children, Schools and Families.

NORTHERN IRELAND

National Security (First Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Government have received and welcomed the first annual report of Lord Carlile of Berriew on the operation of arrangements for handling national security matters in Northern Ireland.

The report finds the operation of arrangements to be working effectively, and Lord Carlile is confident there will be no diminution of national security in Northern Ireland.

Consistent with his terms of reference, the report was submitted to both the Home Secretary and to me.

The Home Secretary and I welcome the content of this report which I am today bringing before Parliament. I have placed copies in the House Library.

TRANSPORT

Local Transport Act 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The effect of section 47 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Local Transport Act 2008 is to empower the Secretary of State to make regulations establishing a new regime for the impounding of certain public service vehicles operated without a valid operator's licence. These provisions were included in response to a recommendation of the House of Commons Transport Committee in its pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is today publishing a consultation which sets out the Government's detailed proposals for this new regime, including draft regulations. The proposals build on the existing goods vehicle impounding regime, which has helped to deter illegal operation in that sector. They should support the Government's road safety objectives, as well as reducing unfair competition for legitimate operators. Comments are invited from all interested parties, and the consultation will close on 31 March 2009.

Copies of the consultation paper, draft regulations and a consultation-stage impact assessment will be available on the Department for Transport's website at: www.dft.gov.uk, and copies are available in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 11 December 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Trawlermen Scheme

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Government ran the Icelandic Water trawlermen scheme between 2000 and 2002. This scheme made compensation payments to trawlermen that lost their livelihoods following the cod wars in the 1970s. The parliamentary ombudsman found last year that some claimants under the scheme had received unfairly low payments, because of the rules on breaks in service, and recommended that my Department review the eligibility criteria and scheme rules, to ensure they were consistent with the policy intention underlying the scheme.

We have now completed that review. I appreciate that this has taken longer than originally intended, but this is a complex issue and it is important to get it right.

I have concluded that we should run a new trawlermen scheme and that additional payments should be calculated on the basis of aggregate service on vessels that fished in Icelandic waters. This means that anyone with long service on Icelandic vessels that received significantly reduced payments under the previous scheme (because of a break in their service) should receive an additional payment. This will substantially reduce the impact of any gaps in service and better align the rules with the intention of the scheme.

We will shortly be consulting on the details of the new scheme. We also propose that—the qualifying test should be amended to require successful claimants to have at least two years aggregate service on Icelandic vessels during the period of the cod wars; interest should be added to the additional payments; consolatory payments of £200 should be made to successful claimants under the new scheme; the Thessalonian should be added to the list of Icelandic vessels for the new scheme; and the new scheme should be limited to existing claims only.

I expect the new scheme to be formally launched by the middle of next year, after we have consulted on the details and considered the views received. Around 1,000 trawlermen should receive additional payments under these arrangements, and the total cost of the new scheme should be less than £10 million.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Plan

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Government publishes today the Children's Plan one year on progress report, setting out progress made since the launch of the Children's Plan a year ago. It celebrates the contribution made by those working with children and young people over the past year, takes stock of the challenges ahead and sets out next steps to achieve our ambitions for children and young people.

The Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy, also published today, describes the way the Government will work with partners to develop and support everyone who works with children and young people and to improve quality and capacity across the workforce. It sets out the Government's priorities for the development of individual sectors of the workforce and for reforms which need to influence everyone who works with children, young people and their families.

We also launch today Building Stronger Partnerships, a strategy for engaging employers in education, in response to the report of the National Council for Educational Excellence (NCEE).

Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses and available electronically at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/oneyearon

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Correction (Questions 164956/200017)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I would like to inform the House that further investigations have revealed that the answers given to questions 164956 and 200017 in the 2007-08 Session were incomplete. Question 164956 was tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) and answered by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 29 November 2007 (*Official Report*, column 681W). Question 200017 was tabled by the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May), and answered by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 2 June 2008 (*Official Report*, columns 538-539W). A correction to question 200017 was issued by my right hon. Friend on 9 July 2008 (*Official Report*, columns 9-10MC).

Question 164956

The response to Question 164956 should read as follows:

Since 27 June,

(a) there are ongoing surveys and research on home buying reform. Work undertaken to date by GfK cost £40,000 plus VAT.

(b) the human resources directorate conducted the second of four quarterly staff surveys. This was undertaken by Ipsos Mori at a cost of £37,000 plus VAT and measured staff opinions on a range of internal management issues.

(c) research into the impact of the firefighter awareness campaign, conducted by GfK NOP, at £20,463 plus VAT.

(d) smoke alarm maintenance creative development research, conducted by COI, at £23,800 plus VAT.

(e) feasibility study for a community attitudes survey, conducted by GfK NOP, at £65,000 plus VAT. A summary is at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080624/text/80624w0024.htm#08062412002645.

In addition, we conducted a pilot employee engagement survey of 400 staff at a cost of £11,000 including VAT. This was undertaken by Ipsos Mori and will help the Department to assess the level of employee engagement and identify the key drivers which would increase engagement levels.

Question 200017

The response to Question 200017 should read as follows:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban), (*Official Report*, 29 November 2007, column 681W).

Between then and the end of the financial year, the Department has undertaken the following work from polling companies:

Andrew Irving Associates Ltd	Quantitative survey on the code for sustainable homes Pre and post-tracking research on the effectiveness of the "Pull your Finger out" fire safety campaign Fire safety research into the holiday accommodation sector
COI	Firefighting careers research and recommendations "Fire Kills" literature review "Fire Kills" campaign recognition omnibus survey Workshops on the importance of the English language to building communities Survey of planning professionals about whether planning portal services met their needs Retained duty service employers research
Cragg Ross Dawson Ltd	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive research
Ethnos Research and Consultancy	"The Drivers of Black and Asian People's Perceptions of Racial Discrimination by Public Services: A qualitative study" (www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/654397.pdf)
Euro RSCG	"Connect to Your Council Takeup Campaign—Campaign Review and Recommendations for Future Local Authority Campaigns" (www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/Connect_your_council.pdf)
FDS International	"Fire and Rescue Service: The Retained Duty System: a survey of local employers" (www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/rdssurvey.pdf)
GFK NOP Ltd	HIPs consumer awareness, qualitative, and omnibus research "Accountability of local council services—omnibus survey"
TH Seagrove	Telephone survey of tenant activists on their awareness etc. of landlords work in terms of the Respect agenda.
ICM	A survey of current and ex-firefighters in England (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/firefightersurvey2008)
IPSOS Mori	Third tranche of 2007 employee survey and the production of aggregated results from the full 2007 employee survey Senior civil service survey Employee engagement workshops
University of York	"Housing Choices and Aspirations of Older People: Research from the New Horizons Programme" (www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/newhorizonsresearch.pdf)

DEFENCE

Defence Equipment

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): Since May 2008 the Ministry of Defence has been examining its equipment programme. The aims of the examination were to adapt to the rising cost of high-end defence equipment and to provide more support for current operations. The key conclusions I am announcing today help us meet these objectives: other aspects will be taken forward through our regular planning round, which will conclude next March.

The work to date will bring the defence equipment programme more closely into balance. Inevitably this has required a reprioritisation of investment to ensure that we deliver those capabilities of the highest immediate urgency, while continuing to invest in capabilities needed to respond to future threats. We remain committed to doing more for our people, here and on the front line—improving their support and welfare, pay, medical care, rehabilitation services and accommodation.

Support to current operations remains our highest priority. Among the top priorities of our operational commanders are the provision of the right mix of protected patrol vehicles and additional helicopter capability. The recent announcement of nearly 700 more protected patrol vehicles for Afghanistan, at a cost of over £700 million, is evidence of our commitment to meet their requirements. In addition to our core budget, the Government will continue to fund the net additional costs of operations from the Treasury reserve. Since 2001 we have received nearly £10 billion, over and above the core defence budget.

As well as the protected mobility package, we have agreed with the Treasury a budget of a further £635 million in 2009-10 for other urgent operational requirements, with any expenditure over and above that being met initially by the reserve, but repaid by the defence budget after two years.

We undertook to inform Parliament about the major decisions emerging from our examination of the equipment programme as soon as we were able to do so. The following are the key conclusions.

In May 2008 we announced the provisional selection of Piranha V, offered by General Dynamics (UK) Ltd, as the preferred design for the FRES utility vehicle. Following a period of intensive negotiations with General Dynamics to address a number of commercial issues, it became clear to both parties that it would not be possible to reach agreement on the commercial conditions required to enable further progress on the basis of the current procurement strategy. I have therefore decided that we should withdraw General Dynamics (UK)'s provisional preferred bidder status.

Our examination of the equipment programme has, separately, considered the balance of investment and priority in the army's armoured vehicle programme. We have concluded that, in the context of current operations, and bearing in mind the considerable recent investment in protected mobility, the highest priority should now be accorded to delivering the warrior capability sustainment programme and the FRES scout vehicle as quickly as possible. Against that background, we have decided to restructure the FRES programme, giving priority to FRES scout over the FRES utility vehicle. Whilst this will mean a delay to the programme, we recognise the importance of the utility vehicle and are now looking at the best way to take this procurement forward. General Dynamics (UK) will have an opportunity to compete in any future utility vehicle competition.

We have increased the number of helicopter airframes and hours available to our commanders in Afghanistan by around 60 per cent. over the past two years, and will make a further significant increase in helicopter capacity in Afghanistan over the next two years.

In addition to our planned battlefield helicopter procurements, we will be spending £70 million from the reserve to upgrade 12 Lynx Mark 9 helicopters with new engines, with the first aircraft available by the end of 2009. This will give commanders more helicopters able to operate effectively all year round in the hot and high altitude in Afghanistan, freeing up other aircraft for other tasks. Taken with the Chinook Mark 3 reversion, the additional planned Apache capability and the Merlins that we plan to move to Afghanistan once they have completed their mission in Iraq, this will deliver a significant increase in helicopter capability available to military commanders.

The new AgustaWestland future Lynx helicopter will provide even greater operational capability when it comes into service, as planned, in 2014.

We have concluded that there is scope for bringing more closely into line the introduction of the joint combat aircraft and the aircraft carrier. This is likely to mean delaying the in service date of the new carriers by one to two years. We are in close consultation with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance on how this might best be done. Construction is already under way and will continue, the programme will still provide stability for the core shipyard workforce, including 10,000 UK jobs.

We have also reviewed all the components of the MARS fleet auxiliary programme, and have concluded that there is scope for considering alternative approaches to its procurement which is likely to involve the deferral of the fleet tanker element.

I have also instituted a review, to be led by Bernard Gray, to examine progress with implementing reforms through the MOD's acquisition change programme and make any further recommendations to secure better value for money in the delivery of major acquisition programmes.

Any further significant changes to the equipment programme will be announced following the conclusion of the MOD's current planning round in March. While that work continues, I intend to control new commitments carefully to ensure we do not restrict our flexibility unnecessarily, though this will not be allowed to hold up support to current operations or our other highest priorities.

Annual Uprating War Pension Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2009 are set out in the table below. The annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2009 will take place from the week beginning 6 April.

War Pensions Rates

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
War Pensions		
Disablement Pension (100% rates)		
officer (£ per annum)	7,571.00	7,952.00
other ranks	145.10	152.40
Age allowances		
40% - 50%	9.75	10.25
Over 50% but not over 70%	14.90	15.65
Over 70% but not over 90%	21.25	22.30
Over 90%	29.80	31.30
Disablement gratuity		
specified minor injury (min.)	924.00	970.00
specified minor injury (max.)	6,902.00	7,247.00
unspecified minor injury (min.)	381.00	400.00
unspecified minor injury (max.)	8,974.00	9,423.00
Unemployability allowance		
Personal	89.70	94.20
adult dependency increase	50.55	53.10
increase for first child	11.75	12.35
increase for subsequent children	13.80	14.50
Invalidity allowance		
higher rate	17.75	18.95
middle rate	11.40	12.00
lower rate	5.70	6.00
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	109.60	115.00
intermediate rate	82.20	86.25
full day rate	54.80	57.50
part-day rate	27.40	28.75
Comforts allowance		
higher rate	23.50	24.70
lower rate	11.75	12.35
Mobility supplement	52.25	54.85
Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (maximum)	54.72	57.44
Therapeutic earnings limit	4,602.00	4,784.00
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	54.80	57.50

War Pensions Rates

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
Severe disablement occupational allowance	27.40	28.75
Clothing allowance (£ per annum)	187.00	196.00
Education allowance (£ per annum) (max)	120.00	120.00
Widow(er)s-private	110.05	115.55
Widow(er)s' (other ranks)	110.05	115.55
Widow(er)-officer (£ per annum) (max)	6,779.00	7,118.00
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks)	26.36	27.68
Childless widow(er)s' u-40-officer (£s per annum) (max)	6,779.00	7,118.00
Supplementary pension	73.64	77.32
Age allowance		
(a) age 65 to 69	12.55	13.20
(b) age 70 to 79	24.10	25.30
(c) age 80 and over	35.75	37.55
Children's allowance		
increase for first child	17.30	18.15
increase for subsequent children	19.35	20.30
Orphan's pension		
increase for first child	19.70	20.70
increase for subsequent children	21.60	22.70
Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)	107.70	113.20
Rent allowance (max)	41.50	43.60
Adult orphan's pension (max)	84.50	88.75

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 16 and 17 December. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council will be taken on 16 December.

Items on the main agenda are: adoption of Council conclusions on health security; and Council conclusions on public health strategies to combat neurodegenerative diseases associated with ageing and in particular Alzheimer's disease. The United Kingdom supports these conclusions.

The presidency also intends to provide a progress report on the proposal for a directive on cross-border healthcare followed by a debate for member states. There will also be a presentation by the European Commission on the recently published proposal for a Council recommendation on European actions in the field of rare diseases, followed by an exchange of views.

Under any other business, the presidency and the Commission intend to provide information on the Council high level working party on public health on the health strategy; proposals for a regulation on the provision of food information to consumers; directive with regards variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products; proposal for a directive on the quality and safety of organ donations; proposal for a recommendation on the safety of patients and the quality of health services including the prevention and control of nosocomial infections; Commission Green Paper on health professionals; information on events organised during the French presidency; Commission's High Level Group on health services and medical care; Commission communication on the future of pharmaceutical products and legislative proposals on pharmacovigilance, counterfeiting and information to patients; proposal for a directive amending directives on the structure and rates of excise duty applied on manufactured tobacco; strengthening of co-operation between member states in the field of e-health; and the forthcoming work programme of the incoming Czech presidency.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. David Lammy): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation (Lord Drayson) has made the following written statement.

"The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council which took place in Brussels on 1st - 2nd December. The research session of the Council was held on 2nd December and was chaired by Valerie Pecresse, Minister for Higher Education Research. The UK was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union.

Research Ministers agreed on a vision for the European Research Area (ERA) in 2020 aiming to help foster greater coordination of research activities across Europe, increase public and private sector investment in R&D and to facilitate the mobility of researchers in Europe. The Vision paper envisages future European research efforts being more responsive to societal challenges, the networking of education, research and innovation stakeholders and R&D underpinning European competitiveness. The UK welcomed the emphasis in the Vision on investment in research and innovation, especially in the current economic climate, as well as the emphasis on an ERA which encourages cooperation with countries outside the EU.

The Council adopted Council Conclusions on Joint Programming - a new process to help identify research fields in which national research programmes could be coordinated on a voluntary basis and reduce fragmentation of research funding in Europe. Joint programming approach will be piloted in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. Council Conclusions on International R&D Cooperation, Marine and Maritime Research and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative were also adopted.

The Council did not agree a General Approach on the Regulation for a Community Legal Framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC Regulation) as a consensus on the exemption of VAT and excise duties could not be reached. The dossier has been referred to the ECOFIN Council for consideration and will be taken forward under the Czech Presidency in the first half of 2009. I am writing separately to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees on this issue.

The Council took note of a presentation from the Luxembourg and Portuguese Ministers on researcher careers and mobility issues including encouraging the take up of science and technology related subjects in school, work-life balance and social security and supplementary pensions. Member States are to consider these issues further in the Commission-chaired Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the role of the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). There was broad agreement that ESFRI played a useful role in allowing Member States to identify potential pan-European research infrastructures and to pull together consortia of interested parties to take these forward. There was little appetite to extend ESFRI's role in respect to helping to prioritise funding for research infrastructures or deciding on their location. On this latter point, there was broad agreement that decisions on location should be taken by the Member States paying for the infrastructures and that these should be located where they would be most effectively used.

Under Any Other Business, the Council took note of an updates from the Commission on the implementation of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan, work to establish revised cost estimates for ITER, the planned nuclear fusion research facility in France, and from the chair of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)."

JUSTICE

Autumn Performance Report 2008

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the Ministry of Justice Autumn Performance Report 2008 (Cm 7525). The report sets out the last six months' progress the Ministry has made against its Departmental Strategic Objectives, value for money targets and public service agreements. The report will also be accessible on the Ministry's website.

CABINET OFFICE

"Helping to shape tomorrow" White Paper

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan): The Government proposes that, subject to Parliamentary approval, a census of population should be taken in England and Wales on 27 March 2011.

I am pleased to announce the publication of a White Paper "Helping to shape tomorrow: The 2011 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales" [Cm 7513], which sets out the UK Statistics Authority's detailed proposals for the census.

The White Paper is intended to promote public discussion of the proposals, which will affect every household and person in England and Wales.

The White Paper sets out the strategic aims for the census, explains the need for it, and deals with matters of public concern such as data security and confidentiality.

Government will use the information to form policy, to plan services for specific groups of people and, especially, to distribute resources effectively to local and health authorities to enable them to direct resources to where they are needed.

The design for the new census builds upon the lessons learned from the 2001 Census, and takes account of the formal recommendations of the Treasury Select Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the National Audit Office and the former Statistics Commission.

After a census rehearsal in October 2009 and consultation with the Welsh Assembly Ministers, the Government will lay before Parliament an Order in Council for approval in accordance with the Census Act 1920.

The White Paper is also being presented to the National Assembly for Wales.

Copies of the White Paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The White Paper is also available on the UK Statistics Authority website at: http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Question Correction

The Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (Chris Bryant): It has been brought to my attention that the reply I gave the hon. Member for Horsham (Francis Maude), on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, Vol. 482, column 1129W was incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

From November 2007 a total of £15,681.25 has been paid to the Parliamentary Labour Party from parliamentary allowances for the messaging service provided for Members by Vodafone:

Session	*Cost*
2007-08	£ 4,981.00
2008-09 (to date)	£10,700.25

The amounts paid to Computing for Labour as subscriptions for software that is used for responding to constituents' correspondence and other constituency casework for each year since 2003-04 are as follows:

Session	*Cost*
2005-06	£73,335.28
2006-07	£59,211.92
2007-08	£61,188.58
2008-09 (to date)	£42,242.68

Figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are not available.

Members typically claim for an annual membership of £50. Most other claims are for £100 for the caseworker management system; £199 for related training; and £235 a year for relevant IT support via Support line.

TRANSPORT

Workplace Parking Levy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today announcing a 12-week consultation on draft regulations for workplace parking levy "licensing schemes" made by local traffic authorities under the Transport Act 2000.

Powers for a local authority to make a workplace parking levy scheme were included in the Transport Act 2000, but some of the details of the legislative framework were left to be set out in regulations .The regulations would apply to any local traffic authority that wishes to make a workplace parking levy scheme in England outside London.

Nottingham City Council has designed a workplace parking levy scheme and made and published a Scheme Order. The order cannot come into force until confirmed by the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Secretary of State cannot consider the order in the absence of an appropriate regulatory framework. The regulations in today's consultation concern that framework.

Publication of this consultation should not be interpreted as implying that a decision on the Nottingham scheme has been taken.

Consultation documents are available on the Department for Transport's website at www.dft.gov.uk/roads/consultations. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Olympic Route Network

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Department has today published a consultation paper on the designation of the Olympic route network (ORN). It sets out proposals for the roads that will form the ORN—a network of roads to be used by athletes, games officials and the media during the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. The consultation closes on 19 March 2009.

For London, as for other recent host cities, the ORN is a vital part of plans for managing the transport challenge posed by one of the largest events that can take place in a country. The purpose of the ORN is to enable the safe, secure, and efficient transport of the athletes, games officials and media who are central to the games between venues and accommodation, while minimising the impact on residents, businesses and visitors. The commitment to have an ORN was included in our Olympic bid, and initial outline proposals for the network were included in the Olympic Delivery Authority's Olympic transport plan published in October last year.

The proposed network that is the subject of this consultation is the result of further detailed work led by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), working closely with the Department for Transport, Transport for London, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, local highway authorities and other stakeholders.

We are taking forward this consultation now, more than three years in advance of the games and with the support of the Mayor of London, because the experience of previous host cities shows to the importance for a successful ORN of good preparation and early and effective communication with those who may be affected—including utilities who typically plan their major works years in advance.

Following consideration of the responses to this consultation, we plan to designate the ORN in the summer of 2009. This is the first stage in a two-stage process to create the ORN. Designation by the Secretary of State will give the ODA the powers to implement temporary traffic management measures on the ORN.

The ODA will, in the second stage, consult widely on potential measures to deliver the best possible solution for the games, the local area and the road network as a whole. Traffic management measures on the individual routes will be applied for the minimum time possible—in some cases they may only be needed for a few days. Many of the measures will be behind the scenes—such as improvements to traffic signals. Between some key locations on the busiest sections of the ORN, and only where there is sufficient space, the measures may include special lanes with use reserved for games vehicles.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 15 December 2008

DEFENCE

RAF Puma ZA938 (Board of Inquiry)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force Board Of Inquiry into the accident involving RAF Puma ZA938 in Iraq on 20 November 2007, which sadly resulted in the deaths of two servicemen, Sergeant John Battersby, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, and Corporal Lee Fitzsimmons, Royal Marines. Our deepest sympathies remain with their families and friends. Two other servicemen were seriously injured in the incident.

The purpose of a board of inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it: it does not seek to apportion blame.

The board of inquiry was convened on 21 November 2007. It considered a large amount of evidence. On 20 November 2007, ZA938 was supporting UK operations in Iraq as part of a formation of helicopters to deliver troops to an identified landing site. Due to the tactical situation, ZA938 made a steeper than normal approach to its landing site. It made a heavy landing, with a small amount of forward movement, after which it rapidly became unstable. Fearing that the aircraft might topple over, the pilot elected to take off again. During this manoeuvre the Puma struck the ground and rolled over onto its right side. The aircraft quickly caught fire and was destroyed.

The board concluded that the main cause of the accident was controlled flight into terrain, brought about by the handling pilot's disorientation due to the use of an incorrect technique for a dust take off. A number of contributory and aggravating factors were also identified.

A redacted version of the BOI findings is being placed in the Library of the House and in addition, a redacted version will be available on the MOD internet site:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/.

The safety of our people is a principal consideration and we have therefore removed from the report information that might endanger the security or capability of UK and Coalition personnel. We have, however, tried to be as open as possible and have carefully considered the public interest arguments for and against disclosure of the information in the Report. We have ensured that each redaction is fully justified by an appropriate exemption in the Freedom of Information Act.

I remind the House that the purpose of the inquiry, in identifying those factors which contributed to the loss, is to identify lessons to be taken forward to minimise the risk of a similar incident happening again. The board President and the Chain of Command made a number of recommendations regarding supervision; cabin security; adherence to standard operating procedures; post-crash management; aircrew qualifications; engineering issues; brown-out; and Aircrew Equipment Assembly issues that are now being studied closely. It made recommendations in 10 areas, which resulted in over 20 separate actions of which two thirds have been implemented and urgent work is underway on the rest.

The board of inquiry into the accident involving Puma ZA938 is now complete. I express my gratitude to the President of the board and his team for their painstaking work.

The Ministry of Defence is co-operating fully with the Herefordshire Coroner who will hold an inquest in due course.

Autumn Performance Report

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the Ministry of Defence's Autumn Performance Report. Success on operations, particularly those in Iraq and Afghanistan, remains our highest priority and the Armed Forces, supported by their civilian colleagues, continue to work towards this.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Energy Council

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My noble friend the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath) has today made the following statement:

> "I attended the Energy Council meeting on 8th December.
>
> The Council agreed a 'general approach' on the proposed re-cast of the Eco-design Directive, which establishes a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy related products.
>
> Following presentations by the Commission of its Communication on the Second Strategic European Energy, and by the European Investment Bank on finance for energy investment, there was a debate on energy security structured around questions prepared by the French Presidency. The debate focused on infrastructure, external relations and energy efficiency and interventions by Ministers will help to prepare the conclusions of the Energy Council and the European Council in Spring 2009.
>
> The Commission and Presidency also presented information on a number of international relations events which have taken place or are due to take place under the French Presidency, including the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council and the Ministerial Conference of the Energy Community Treaty.
>
> In the final part of the meeting, the Commission outlined developments on the SET Plan to promote increased cooperation of research institutes in pan-EU programmes. A communication on financing low carbon technologies is due to follow in 2009.
>
> Over lunch, the Presidency updated the Council on progress on the Climate and Energy legislative package, focusing particularly on the Renewables Directive. The Presidency aims to reach agreement on the package with the European Parliament by the end of the year."

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Private Sewers and Lateral Drains

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I am announcing today that following an extensive review of the arrangements for private sewers and drains in England and Wales the Government have decided to transfer, from 2011, existing private sewers and lateral drains in England that connect to the public network into the ownership of the nine statutory Water and Sewerage companies (WaSCs).

Existing private sewers and lateral drains—that part of the drain that extends beyond the property boundary—are currently the responsibility of the owners of the properties they serve, a fact that often comes as a complete surprise to owners, who usually assume that the sewer and lateral drain serving their property are the responsibility of the local WaSC or local authority, private owners have to meet the costs of repairs and these can be considerable.

Private sewers serve more than one property so ownership is shared and usually a large extent of the sewer will lie outside a property's own boundary. Lateral drains serve one property but always lie outside the property's boundary. Transfer provides the only comprehensive solution to a range of private sewer and lateral drain problems affecting householders, such as lack of awareness of their responsibilities and unwillingness or inability to coordinate or contribute to potentially high costs of maintenance and repair. It will bring simplification and clarity to owners, local authorities and WaSCs, all of whom typically become involved when these problems arise. Transfer will also significantly help address a lack of integrated management of the sewerage network as a whole, and provide much greater efficiency of effort and expenditure at a time when climate change and housing growth may impose greater demands on urban drainage systems. Having a much greater proportion of the sewer network in the management of the Water and Sewerage Companies means they will be able to plan maintenance and resolve problems more easily and comprehensively.

Transfer will take place from 2011 to allow the water industry and those businesses operating around it sufficient time to prepare for transfer. The costs of necessary future improvement and maintenance will, after transfer be shared by customers as a whole through an increase in the sewerage element of bills for the generality of customers. Although these are uncertain, preliminary estimates indicate increases of around £4 to £12 per year across the nine Water and Sewerage Companies in England.

The Government will now prepare and consult on draft regulations to implement the transfer. The regulations will also introduce steps to prevent the proliferation of new such private sewers, in order to prevent the future recurrence of existing problems.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the European Council on 11 and 12 December 2008

The presidency said that the December European Council would concentrate on the economic and financial crisis, the 2020 climate change package and the Lisbon treaty.

On the economic and financial crisis, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary noted the importance of the discussion at the December European Council, in particular on the need for fiscal stimulus.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also noted that agreement of the 2020 package was important in order for the EU to continue to lead global efforts against climate change.

The Government broadly welcome the presidency's agenda and strongly support their intention for Foreign Ministers to discuss the middle east in the margins of the European Council.

Enlargement

Ministers agreed GAERC conclusions on EU enlargement that: reconfirmed the Council's consensus in support of enlargement on the basis that the EU should stick to its commitments, apply conditionality fairly and rigorously, and improve communication; welcomed the European Commission Communication of 5 November on enlargement strategy and progress reports for candidates and potential candidates; and took stock of the progress of accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia, urging both countries to redouble their efforts to implement the necessary reforms.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

World Trade Organisation (WTO)/Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

The presidency recalled the November statement by the G20 on the need to make progress by the end of the year. The UK spoke in support of the Commission's efforts in negotiating on behalf of the EU and noted that the financial crisis made a deal now more valuable than in July; it was important as a demonstration that member states could act on the G20 statement and provide a global response to a global problem. The presidency noted that if, as expected, a WTO ministerial were called later in December, the GAERC would meet in a parallel special session, as it did during the last ministerial in July.

Western Balkans

Ministers welcomed the deployment of the EU's rule of law mission, EULEX, which began operating throughout Kosovo on 9 December 2008. They also approved conclusions, which the Government support, largely sharing the assessments in the Commission's progress reports for Western Balkans countries.

The Council welcomed the Commission's intention to present a study in autumn 2009 that will examine ways of taking forward Kosovo's European perspective in line with the European Council conclusions of December 2007 and June 2008.

Ministers also recognised Serbia's progress in improving co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), while reiterating the requirement for full co-operation. Ministers also underlined the importance of Serbia taking a constructive approach to regional co-operation. They highlighted again that Serbia had the capacity to accelerate its progress towards the EU, including attaining candidate status, once the necessary conditions had been met.

Ministers once again expressed concern at the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They urged Bosnian leaders to address themselves to the reforms necessary for the country to move towards the EU and to meeting the objectives and conditions needed for closure of the Office of the High Representative. The EU would need to strengthen its role in Bosnia.

Middle East

Ministers adopted conclusions that reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting the Middle East Peace Process into 2009 through a comprehensive regional approach. In particular the EU condemned all violence especially in Gaza and rocket attacks against civilians. The conclusions urged a halt to settlement activity and call for the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Gaza with the reopening of crossing points. The European Union also expressed support for the Egyptian mediation efforts for Palestinian reconciliation and welcomed efforts by the Arab League to put the Arab Peace Initiative back on the table.

The Council also approved in principle the building up of relations between the EU and Israel, while insisting that this deepening of relations encourage the Israeli authorities to do more to improve living conditions on the ground in the Palestinian authority and contribute to advancing the peace process. At the same time, Ministers welcomed the deepening of the EU's relations with the Palestinian authority and looked forward to further progress, including the possibility of a Summit.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Council agreed conclusions that reiterated its support for efforts by the UN Mission in DRC (MONUC) on the ground and encouraged it to continue to strengthen its deployment in North Kivu; welcomed the adoption on 20 November of UN Security Council Resolution 1843 authorizing the expansion of MONUC; took note of the UN Secretary-General's request to High Representative Solana for an interim European military force to support MONUC; and asked Solana and the Commission to prepare rapidly elements for a technical, humanitarian and political response, taking into account comments submitted.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed a desire to see continued EU engagement in the DRC; any specific options required further study.

Zimbabwe

The Council conclusions, which the Government strongly supports, reiterated the EU's deep concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, particularly as a result of the cholera epidemic and the continuing violence against supporters of the MDC; and recalled the importance of reaching a fair and viable power sharing agreement without delay; and demanded respect for the principles of humanitarian aid and, in particular, respect for the principle of impartiality and equal access to humanitarian aid for the entire Zimbabwean population.

The Council extended EU measures against the ZANU-PF regime, adding a further eleven names to the asset freeze and visa ban list.

Pakistan

The Government supports the Council conclusions, which welcomed Pakistan's return to democracy and commitment to step up measures to counter terrorism and extremism, while underlining the importance of improving relations between Pakistan and its neighbours, particularly India and Afghanistan.

Ministers also committed to further developing EU political dialogue in a number of areas including: trade and development; intercultural exchange; non-proliferation; human rights; counter-terrorism; and radicalisation and education. They also agreed to intensify political dialogue in line with EU commitments to enhance engagement with Pakistan including, if possible, at an ad hoc summit under the Czech presidency in the first half of 2009. The conclusions acknowledged Pakistan's request to initiate the process for an EU-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and committed to examining all the options aimed at enhancing trade relations.

The Council adopted separate conclusions condemning the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India; strongly encouraging the strengthening of regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism; expressing the EU's hope that Pakistan will cooperate fully with India on the investigation into the attacks; and supporting continued dialogue between India and Pakistan to enable greater bilateral cooperation and overall regional stability.

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

Ministers agreed declarations on improving the military capabilities of EU member states and on international security; and formally approved the operation to improve maritime security off the coast of Somalia.

Ministers also approved a review by High Representative Solana of the implementation of the European Security Strategy, which Solana will present to heads at the December European Council. The Government can welcome the broad direction of the document and its key policy conclusions—greater coherence, engagement with the neighbourhood and capabilities.

HEALTH

Autumn Performance Report

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): I have today laid before Parliament my Department's Autumn Performance Report for 2008 (Cm 7519). Copies for hon. Members are available from the Vote Office.

The Autumn Performance Report provides the first public reporting of progress on our public service agreements, departmental strategic objectives and value for money targets set for this comprehensive spending review period.

Meat Products (Dioxins)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): On 6 December 2008 the Irish Government announced that levels of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) exceeding the maximum permitted levels had been found in animal feed and pork fat in the Republic of Ireland.

Maximum levels for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in meat, fish, eggs, milk and other foods have been set by the European Commission. These are set at a very low level in order to reduce consumer exposure as much as possible. Levels of dioxins found in pork fat from the Republic of Ireland were reported to be 80 to 200 times greater than the permitted maximum levels.

The Irish Government advised that it was recalling all pork and pork products made in the Republic of Ireland since 1 September 2008.

Pork derived from pigs reared, slaughtered and processed in Northern Ireland is not affected by this incident. However, 13 meat processing plants in Northern Ireland had received pork from the Republic of Ireland.

On the basis of this information, the Food Standards Agency issued precautionary advice to consumers not to eat pork or pork products, such as sausages, bacon, salami and ham, labelled as being from the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

During the course of last week, additional information became available on which farms in the Republic of Ireland had received contaminated feed. This enabled food retailers and manufacturers to trace their supplies of pork and identify if it has been affected. The current position is that in the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe shops, manufacturers and caterers that can trace the origin of any pork directly to a farm that is unaffected by contaminated feed are able to continue selling their products. The food businesses will need to be able to demonstrate to local authorities that any pork on sale is unaffected.

Food businesses are being advised to test products such as pork pies and sausages that contain more than 20 per cent.of Irish pork from affected farms to make sure that they do not contain illegal levels of dioxins. Products that contain less than 20 per cent. of Irish pork do not have to be tested or withdrawn from sale.

From the information that we have at this time we consider the risk to consumers from this incident to have been very low. Consumers have been advised not to worry if they think they may have eaten affected products. The Food Standards Agency's assessment is that health effects are likely only if people are exposed to relatively high levels of this contaminant for long periods; that will not have occurred as a result of this incident.

This view has been supported by the assessment from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). They have advised that if someone ate Irish pork of which 10 per cent. was affected by the contamination, each day throughout the past 90 days, the amount of chemicals that accumulate in the body would increase by approximately 10 per cent. EFSA considers this increase to be of no concern for this event lasting approximately three months. In the UK, the level of exposure will be much lower because most pork on the market is not from Ireland.

It has also been confirmed that the contaminated feed has been supplied to cattle farms in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Irish Government has concluded on the basis of its testing of affected cattle that there is no public health risk associated with beef.

Samples are being taken from carcasses in Northern Ireland and the results will determine the course of action to be taken. The Food Standards Agency is following the European Commission's advised approach that neither pigs nor cattle should be cleared solely on the basis of PCB marker results but should await full dioxin test results.

Eight affected cattle herds in Northern Ireland are currently under restrictions. Cattle and carcasses from these herds will remain restricted and will not enter the food chain until the Food Standards Agency and the European Commission are fully satisfied that, from the results, the cattle from these herds are fit to eat. Investigations are continuing to establish whether any potentially affected beef had entered the market prior to restrictions being put in place. Farmers and the food industry are acting responsibly and fully co-operating with the authorities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Autumn Performance Report 2008

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The Home Office Autumn Performance Report 2008 (Cm 7512) has been laid before Parliament and published today.

The report provides an update on performance against the targets we set in the 2004 Spending Review and any 2002 targets that are still current. It shows that we have met our targets to reduce crime, increase confidence and bring more offences to justice. The latest data also show that we are ahead of our target to reduce unfounded asylum intake and we are on course to reduce the harm caused by drugs.

It includes our first report against the 2007 Public Service Agreements that are led by the Home Office and came into effect in April this year. These PSAs are: ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth; make communities safer; reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs; and reducing the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.

The report also includes information on our progress with implementing outstanding Public Accounts Committee recommendations.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office. The Report is also available on the Home Office website.

Control Order Powers

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Vernon Coaker): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During this reporting period, seven CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad-hoc basis as specific issues arose.

In total, 15 control orders are currently in force, four of which are in respect of British citizens. Three individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating. Two individuals have been charged with breaching their control order obligations; no prosecutions for breaching a control order were completed during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, 96 modifications of control order obligations were made. Twenty-three requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal is provided for by section 10(1) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and or to modify any obligation under the order. Two appeals have been lodged with the High Court by controlled persons relating to modifications to orders or the renewal of orders in this reporting period, one of which has been withdrawn.

Both the Secretary of State and the controlled person have appealed to the Court of Appeal in this reporting period in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. Abu Rideh*, subsequent to the judgment of the High Court in the substantive review of *Abu Rideh's* control order handed down in the last reporting period. Another controlled person has applied to the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal against a High Court judgment in relation to a modification appeal handed down in the last reporting period.

Five judgments have been handed down by the High Court in control order cases during this reporting period and one judgment has been handed down by the Court of Appeal. Two of these High Court judgments were in relation to modification appeals. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AM* a judgment was handed down on 11 September 2008. The court looked at a number of modification requests and ruled in favour of the controlled person for some of the requests and in favour of the Secretary of State for one. A judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AS* on 3 October 2008. The court ruled in favour of the controlled person subject to a number of conditions agreed between the parties.

On 14 November 2008, the High Court handed down judgment in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AR, AT, AU, AV and AW*. The judgment related to the generic aspects of the case against five individuals who are subject to control orders. The court found that the proceedings, thus far, were compatible with Article 6—right to a fair trial—of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The judgment was provisional and will form the background for the substantive review of each of the individual cases under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act.

On 17 October 2008 the High Court handed down a judgment in relation to an application made by The Times Newspapers Ltd to the court to lift the anonymity order in the case of *AY*. This application was opposed both by the Secretary of State and *AY*. The court ruled that the anonymity order should remain in place. The Times Newspapers Ltd was granted permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal but no appeal was lodged with the Court of Appeal.

On 24 November 2008 the High Court handed down an oral judgment in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. NN*. This judgment, relating to the substantive review of *NN's* control order under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act, quashed *NN's* control order. A written judgment will be handed down at a later date.

The Court of Appeal handed down judgment in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AE, AF, AM* and *AN* on 17 October 2008. The Court of Appeal upheld the appeals of the Secretary of State in the cases of *AN* and *AF* in relation to Article 6 of the ECHR and dismissed the appeal of *AE* in relation to Article 6. The Court of Appeal dismissed *AE's* appeal in relation to Article 5—right to liberty—of the ECHR. The appeal of the Secretary of State in the case of *AM* was also dismissed. The Court of Appeal sought to interpret the judgment of the House of Lords in October 2007 in the cases of *MB* and *AF* relating to Article 6. In summary, the majority found that there is no principle that a hearing will be unfair in the absence of open disclosure of an irreducible minimum allegation or evidence. The majority also found that in assessing whether a hearing had been unfair the court must look at all the circumstances of the case including the steps taken to disclose material in open, the effectiveness of the special advocates and the difference that disclosure may have made. The Court of Appeal granted permission for *AE, AF* and *AN* to appeal to the House of Lords on Article 6 grounds.

Full judgments in most of these cases are available at: http://www.bailii.org/

JUSTICE

Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (David Hanson): In a written ministerial statement on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 33WS, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families and I announced our intention to publish the report of the Joint Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings by 15 December, together with the Government's response.

I have today laid before Parliament the Government Response to the Review of the Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings (Cm 7501). I am with my right hon. Friend the Minister for Children, Young People and Families also today publishing the report of the Joint Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings. Copies of the Review have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. They can also be accessed on the websites of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice: http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk and www.justice.gov.uk/publications/restraint-review.htm and www.justice.gov.uk/publications/govt-response-restraint-review.htm

The Joint Review looked in depth at the range of issues relating to use of restraint, particularly the question of safety. It recommends substantial changes in relation to the systems approved for use in young offender institutions and secure training centres. It also recommends that all systems used in the under-18 secure estate should be accredited and proposes significant improvements relating to training, monitoring, inspection and reporting.

We have accepted almost all of the review's recommendations. We are very grateful to Peter Smallridge and Andrew Williamson, the co-chairs of the review, for the work they have done to illuminate this important and sensitive area of policy and for the practical proposals they have made. We believe that the Joint Review and the steps we are taking in response to it should make possible a broad measure of agreement on questions relating to use of restraint in the under-18 secure estate. We will make available an additional £4.9 million over the next two years to support the package of measures to drive change, including enhanced training in working with young people, defusing difficult situations and behaviour management, so that we can be certain that restraint is only ever used as a last resort and with vigorous safeguards.

A number of other documents relating to safeguarding in the under-18 estate are also being published today. The youth justice elements of the Government's response to the 3rd Joint Chief Inspectors' Report on Safeguarding can be accessed on the DCSF website http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/safeguardingchildrenresponse/; the Youth Justice Board is publishing its review of safeguarding in the under-18 secure estate www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/safeguarding; and we are updating the action plan we published in March in response to the recommendations of the coroners following the inquests into the deaths of Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood www.justice.gov.uk/publications/response-coroners-inquests-dec08.htm

TRANSPORT

Autumn Performance Report 2008

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I have today published my Department's Autumn Performance Report for 2008 (CM7510). Copies have been laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Autumn Performance Report provides Parliament with a progress report on performance against the Departmental Strategic Objectives, Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and our efficiency programme using data available up to November 2008.

Renewable Transport Fuel Targets (Gallagher Review)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I would like to update the House on the Government's progress against commitments set out by my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), in her statement on biofuels on 7 July 2008, responding to 'The Gallagher Review of the indirect effects of biofuels production'.

As part of that response to the Gallagher Review, the Government made a commitment that the EU target of 10 per cent. renewable transport fuels by 2020 could remain an overall objective but that it should be subject to certain conditions, namely: that the sustainability criteria applicable to the target should address the indirect as well as direct effects on land use; and that the 10 per cent. target be subject to rigorous review to take account of the emerging evidence.

The 10 per cent. target is part of the renewable energy directive due to be approved by the European Parliament this week and adopted by the Council in the New Year, following negotiations between the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament.

The principle of a rigorous review of the 10 per cent. target received strong support from the Council and the European Parliament and the directive put forward for approval requires the Commission to, by 2014, review the cost-efficiency and sustainability of the target and, if appropriate on the basis of that review, submit proposals to the Council and the European Parliament to take action.

The UK Government have led the debate in Europe on the need to address the indirect effects of biofuels on land use and so ensure that the renewable energy directive will include sustainability criteria that address these indirect effects. The directive put forward for approval requires the Commission to, by 31 December 2010, submit a report to the Council and the European Parliament on the impact of indirect land use change on greenhouse gas emissions. This report shall, where appropriate, be accompanied by a proposal for a methodology through which the greenhouse gas emissions caused by indirect land use change will be taken into account, with a view to the Council and European Parliament endeavouring to agree this methodology by 2012.

This recognises the fact that the scientific evidence around the indirect effects of biofuels is not yet certain enough to develop such a methodology now. However, the pace of research into indirect land use change has been accelerating rapidly. The UK Government themselves are working with international partners and scientific experts to develop a biofuels research programme which will aim to address gaps in the evidence around the indirect effects of biofuels and through this group we will help ensure that development of any methodology to take into account indirect land use change is based on the best available science.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Uprating

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): The proposed rates of benefit for 2009 are set out in the table below. The annual uprating of benefits will take place for state pension and most other benefits in the first full week of the tax year. In 2009, this will be the week beginning 6 April. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland proposes to introduce similar changes for Northern Ireland.

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
Attendance Allowance		
higher rate	67.00	70.35
lower rate	44.85	47.10
Carer's Allowance	50.55	53.10
Council Tax Benefit		
Personal allowances		
Single		
18 to 24	47.95	50.95
25 or over	60.50	64.30
entitled to main phase ESA	60.50	64.30
lone parent	60.50	64.30
couple	94.95	100.95
dependent children	52.59	56.11
pensioner		
single/lone parent- 60-64	124.05	130.00
Couple - one or both 60-64	189.35	198.45
single/lone parent - 65 and over	143.80	150.40
couple - one or both 65 and over	215.50	225.50
Premiums		
family	16.75	17.30
family (lone parent rate)	22.20	22.20
child under 1	10.50	10.50
disability		
single	25.85	27.50
couple	36.85	39.15
enhanced disability		
single	12.60	13.40
disabled child	19.60	20.65
couple	18.15	19.30
severe disability		
single	50.35	52.85
couple (lower rate)	50.35	52.85
couple (higher rate)	100.70	105.70
disabled child	48.72	51.24
carer	27.75	29.50
ESA components		
work-related activity	24.00	25.50
support	29.00	30.85
Alternative maximum Council Tax Benefit		
second adult getting IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit	25% of Council Tax	25% of Council Tax
first adult(s) student(s)	100% of Council Tax	100% of Council Tax
second adult's gross income		
under £175.00	15% of Council Tax	15% of Council Tax
£175.00 to £227.99	7.5% of Council Tax	7.5% of Council Tax

CAPITAL LIMITS—rules common to Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit unless stated otherwise.

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
upper limit	16000.00	16000.00
upper limit - Pension Credit and HB/CTB guarantee credit	No limit	No limit
amount disregarded	6000.00	6000.00
child disregard (not Pension Credit)	3000.00	3000.00
amt disregarded (living in RC/NH)	10000.00	10000.00

Tariff Income—£1 for every £250, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and the capital upper limit.

Tariff income - Pension Credit and HB/CTB where claimant or partner is aged 60 or over. £1 for every £500, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and the capital upper limit.

Deductions—rules common to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit unless stated otherwise.

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
Non-dependant deductions from rent rebates and allowances and from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit		
aged 25 and over in receipt of IS and JSA(IB), in receipt of main phase ESA(IR), aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work.	7.40	7.40
aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
gross income: less than £120.00	7.40	7.40
gross income: £120 to £177.99	17.00	17.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
gross income: £178 to £230.99	23.35	23.35
gross income: £231 to £305.99	38.20	38.20
gross income: £306 to £381.99	43.50	43.50
gross income: £382 and above	47.75	47.75
Non-dependant deductions from council tax benefit		
aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
gross income: £382 or more	6.95	6.95
gross income: £306 - £381.99	5.80	5.80
gross income: £178 - £305.99	4.60	4.60
gross income less than £178	2.30	2.30
others, aged 18 or over	2.30	2.30
Deductions from housing benefit		
service charges for fuel		
heating	15.45	21.55
hot water	1.80	2.50
lighting	1.25	1.75
cooking	1.80	2.50
Amount ineligible for meals		
three or more meals a day		
single claimant	21.60	22.95
each person in family aged 16 or over	21.60	22.95
each child under 16	10.90	11.60
less than three meals a day		
single claimant	14.35	15.25
each person in family aged 16 or over	14.35	15.25
each child under 16	7.20	7.65
breakfast only - claimant and each member of the family	2.65	2.80
Amount for personal expenses (not HB/CTB)	21.15	21.90
Third party deductions from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit for;		
arrears of housing, fuel and water costs	3.05	3.25
council tax etc. and deductions for ELDS and ILS.		
child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM)		
standard deduction	6.10	6.50
lower deduction	3.05	3.25
arrears of Community Charge		
court order against claimant	3.05	3.25
court order against couple	4.75	5.05
fine or compensation order		
standard rate	5.00	5.00
lower rate	3.05	3.25
Maximum deduction rates for recovery of overpayments (not CTB/JSA(C)/ESA(C))		
ordinary overpayments	9.15	9.75
where claimant convicted of fraud	12.00	12.80
Deductions from JSA(C) and ESA(C)		
Arrears of Comm. Charge, Council Tax, fines and overpayment recovery		
Age 16 – 24	15.98	16.98
Age 25 +	20.16	21.43
Maximum deduction for arrears of Child Maintenance (CTM		
Age 16 – 24	15.98	16.98
Age 25 +	20.16	21.43
Disregards		
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit		
Earnings disregards		
standard (single claimant)	5.00	5.00
Couple	10.00	10.00
higher (special occupations/circumstances)	20.00	20.00
lone parent	25.00	25.00
childcare charges	175.00	175.00
childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00
Other Income disregards		
adult maintenance disregard	15.00	15.00
war disablement pension and war widows pension	10.00	10.00
widowed mothers/parents allowance	15.00	15.00
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme	10.00	10.00
student loan	10.00	10.00
student's covenanted income	5.00	5.00
income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance)	20.00	20.00
additional earnings disregard	16.05	16.85
income from subtenants	20.00	20.00
Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit		
Earnings disregards		
standard (single claimant)	5.00	5.00
couple	10.00	10.00
higher (special occupations/circumstances)	20.00	20.00
Other Income disregards		
war disablement pension and war widows pension	10.00	10.00
widowed mothers/parents allowance	10.00	10.00
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme	10.00	10.00
student loan (not Pension Credit)	10.00	10.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates* 2008	*Rates* 2009
student's covenanted income (not Pension Credit)	5.00	5.00
income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance)	20.00	20.00
income from subtenants	20.00	20.00
Dependency Increases		
Adult dependency increases for spouse or person looking after children - payable with:		
State Pension on own insurance.	54.35	57.05
Long-term Incapacity Benefit and Unemployability Supplement.	50.55	53.10
Severe Disablement Allowance.	30.40	31.90
Carers Allowance.	30.20	31.70
short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age).	48.65	51.10
Maternity Allowance and short-term Incapacity Benefit.	39.40	41.35
Child Dependency Increases - payable with; State Pension; Widowed Mothers/Parents Allowance; short-term Incapacity benefit – higher rate or over state pension age; long-term Incapacity Benefit; Carer's Allowance; Severe Disablement Allowance; Industrial Death Benefit (higher rate); Unemployability Supplement–	11.35	11.35
Note - The rate of child dependency increase is adjusted where it is payable for the eldest child for whom child benefit is also paid. The weekly rate in such cases is reduced by the difference (less £3.65) between the ChB rates for the eldest and subsequent children.		
Disability Living Allowance		
Care Component		
Highest	67.00	70.35
Middle	44.85	47.10
Lowest	17.75	18.65
Mobility Component		
Higher	46.75	49.10
Lower	17.75	18.65
Employment and Support Allowance		
Personal Allowances		
under 25	47.95	50.95
25 or over	60.50	64.30
lone parent		
under 18	47.95	50.95
18 or over	60.50	64.30
Couple		
both under 18	47.95	50.95
both under 18 with child	72.35	76.90
both under 18 (main phase)	60.50	64.30
both under 18 with child (main phase)	94.95	100.95
One 18 or over, one under 18	94.95	100.95
both over 18	94.95	100.95
claimant under 25, partner under 18	47.95	50.95
claimant 25 or over, partner under 18	60.50	64.30
claimant (main phase), partner under 18	60.50	64.30
Premiums		
enhanced disability		
single	12.60	13.40
couple	18.15	19.30
severe disability		
single	50.35	52.85
couple (lower rate)	50.35	52.85
couple (higher rate)	100.70	105.70
carer	27.75	29.50
pensioner		
single with WRAC	39.55	40.20
single with support component	34.55	34.85
single with no component	63.55	65.70
couple with WRAC	70.40	72.00
couple with support component	65.40	66.65
couple with no component	94.40	97.50
Components		
Work-related Activity	24.00	25.50
Support	29.00	30.85
Earnings Rules		
Carers Allowance	95.00	95.00
Limit of earnings from councillor's allowance	88.50	92.00
Permitted work earnings limit - higher	88.50	92.00
Permitted work earnings limit - lower	20.00	20.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
Industrial injuries unemployability supplement permitted earnings level (annual amount)	4602.00	4784.00
Earnings level at which adult dependency (ADI) increases are affected with short-term incapacity benefit where claimant is:		
(a) under state pension age	39.40	41.35
(b) over state pension age	48.65	51.10
maternity allowance	39.40	41.35
state pension, long term incapacity benefit,		
severe disablement allowance, unemployability supplement - payable when dependant		
(a) is living with claimant	60.50	64.30
(b) still qualifies for the tapered earnings rule	45.09	45.09
Earnings level at which ADI is affected when dependant is not living with claimant;		
State pension.	54.35	57.05
Long-term incapacity benefit and unemployability supplement.	50.55	53.10
Severe disablement allowance.	30.40	31.90
Carers allowance	30.20	31.70
Earnings level at which child dependency increases are affected		
for first child	185.00	195.00
additional amount for each subsequent child	25.00	26.00
Pension income threshold for incapacity benefit	85.00	85.00
Housing Benefit		
Personal allowances		
single		
16 to 24	47.95	50.95
25 or over	60.50	64.30
entitled to main phase ESA	60.50	64.30
lone parent		
under 18	47.95	50.95
18 or over	60.50	64.30
entitled to main phase ESA	60.50	64.30
couple		
both under 18	72.35	76.90
one or both 18 or over	94.95	100.95
claimant entitled to main phase ESA	94.95	100.95
dependent children	52.59	56.11
pensioner		
single/lone parent - 60 - 64	124.05	130.00
couple - one or both 60 - 64	189.35	198.45
single/lone parent - 65 and over	143.80	150.40
couple - one or both 65 and over	215.50	225.50
Premiums		
family	16.75	17.30
family (lone parent rate)	22.20	22.20
child under 1	10.50	10.50
disability		
single	25.85	27.50
couple	36.85	39.15
enhanced disability		
single	12.60	13.40
disabled child	19.60	20.65
couple	18.15	19.30
severe disability		
single	50.35	52.85
couple (lower rate)	50.35	52.85
couple (higher rate)	100.70	105.70
disabled child	48.72	51.24
carer	27.75	29.50
ESA components		
work-related activity	24.00	25.50
support	29.00	30.85
Incapacity Benefit		
Long-term Incapacity Benefit	84.50	89.80
Short-term Incapacity Benefit (under state pension age)		
lower rate	63.75	67.75
higher rate	75.40	80.15
Short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age)		
lower rate	81.10	86.20
higher rate	84.50	89.80
Increase of Long-term Incapacity Benefit for age		
higher rate	17.75	15.65
lower rate	8.90	6.55

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
Invalidity Allowance (Transitional)		
higher rate	17.75	15.65
middle rate	11.40	9.10
lower rate	5.70	5.35
Income Support		
Personal Allowances		
single		
under 25	47.95	50.95
25 or over	60.50	64.30
lone parent		
under 18	47.95	50.95
18 or over	60.50	64.30
couple		
both under 18	47.95	50.95
both under 18 - higher rate	72.35	76.90
one under 18, one under 25	47.95	50.95
one under 18, one 25 and over	60.50	64.30
both 18 or over	94.95	100,95
dependent children	52.59	56.11
Premiums		
family / lone parent	16.75	17.30
pensioner (applies to couples only)	94.40	97.50
disability		
single	25.85	27.50
couple	36.85	39.15
enhanced disability		
single	12.60	13.40
disabled child	19.60	20.65
couple	18.15	19.30
severe disability		
single	50.35	52.85
couple (lower rate)	50.35	52.85
couple (higher rate)	100.70	105.70
disabled child	48.72	51.24
carer	27.75	29.50
Relevant sum for strikers	32.50	34.50
Industrial Death Benefit		
Widow's pension		
higher rate	90.70	95.25
lower rate	27.21	28.58
Widower's pension	90.70	95.25
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit		
18 and over, or under 18 with dependants		
100%	136.80	143.60
90%	123.12	129.24
80%	109.44	114.88
70%	95.76	100.52
60%	82.08	86.16
50%	68.40	71.80
40%	54.72	57.44
30%	41.04	43.08
20%	27.36	28.72
Under 18		
100%	83.85	88.05
90%	75.47	79.25
80%	67.08	70.44
70%	58.70	61.64
60%	50.31	52.83
50%	41.93	44.03
40%	33.54	35.22
30%	25.16	26.42
20%	16.77	17.61
Maximum life gratuity (lump sum)	9090.00	9540.00
Unemployability Supplement	84.50	88.75
increase for early incapacity		
higher rate	17.75	18.65
middle rate	11.40	12.00
lower rate	5.70	6.00
Maximum reduced earnings allowance	54.72	57.44
Maximum retirement allowance	13.68	14.36
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	109.60	115.00
intermediate rate	82.20	86.25
normal maximum rate	54.80	57.50
part-time rate	27.40	28.75
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	54.80	57.50
Jobseeker's Allowance		
Contribution based JSA - Personal rates		
under 25	47.95	50.95
25 or over	60.50	64.30
Income-based JSA - personal allowances		
under 25	47.95	50.95

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2008*	*Rates 2009*
25 or over	60.50	64.30
lone parent		
under 18	47.95	50.95
18 or over	60.50	64.30
Couple		
both under 18	47.95	50.95
both under 18 - higher rate	72.35	76.90
one under 18, one under 25	47.95	50.95
one under 18, one 25 and over	60.50	64.30
both 18 or over	94.95	100.95
dependent children	52.59	56.11
Premiums		
family/lone parent	16.75	17.30
Pensioner		
single	63.55	65.70
couple	94.40	97.50
disability		
single	25.85	27.50
couple	36.85	39.15
enhanced disability		
single	12.60	13.40
disabled child	19.60	20.65
couple	18.15	19.30
severe disability		
single	50.35	52.85
couple (lower rate)	50.35	52.85
couple (higher rate)	100.70	105.70
disabled child	48.72	51.24
carer	27.75	29.50
Prescribed sum for strikers	32.50	34.50
Maternity Allowance		
Standard rate	117.18	123.06
MA threshold	30.00	30.00
Pension Credit		
Standard minimum guarantee		
single	124.05	130.00
couple	189.35	198.45
Additional amount for severe disability		
Single	50.35	52.85
couple (one qualifies)	50.35	52.85
couple (both qualify)	100.70	105.70
Additional amount for carers	27.75	29.50
Savings credit		
threshold – single	91.20	96.00
threshold - couple	145.80	153.40
maximum – single	19.71	20.40
maximum - couple	26.13	27.03
Amount for claimant and first spouse in polygamous marriage	189.35	198.45
Additional amount for additional spouse	65.30	68.45
Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis, and Miscellaneous Diseases Scheme and the Workmen's Compensation (Supplementation)		
Total disablement allowance and major incapacity allowance (maximum)	136.80	143.60
Partial disablement allowance	50.55	53.10
Unemployability supplement	84.50	88.75
increases for early incapacity -		
higher rate	17.75	18.65
middle rate	11.40	12.00
lower rate	5.70	6.00
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	109.60	115.00
intermediate rate	82.20	86.25
normal maximum rate	54.80	57.50
part-time rate	27.40	28.75
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	54.80	57.50
Lesser incapacity allowance		
maximum rate of allowance	50.55	53.10
based on loss of earnings over	67.00	70.35
State Pension		
Category A or B	90.70	95.25
Category B (lower) - husband's insurance	54.35	57.05
Category C or D - non-contributory	54.35	57.05
Category C (lower) - non-contributory	32.50	34.15
Additional pension	Increase by:	5.0%
Increments to:-		
Basic pension	Increase by:	5.0%
Additional pension	Increase by:	5.0%
Graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB)	Increase by:	5.0%

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates* *2008*	*Rates* *2009*
Inheritable lump sum	Increase by:	5.0%
Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings		Nil
Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997	Increase by:	3.0%
Graduated Retirement Benefit (unit)	0.1098	0.1153
Graduated Retirement Benefit (Inherited)	Increase by:	5.0%
Addition at age 80	0.25	0.25
Severe Disablement Allowance		
Basic rate	51.05	57.45
Age-related addition (from Dec 90)		
Higher rate	17.75	15.65
Middle rate	11.40	9.10
Lower rate	5.70	5.35
Statutory Adoption Pay		
Earnings threshold	90.00	95.00
Standard Rate	117.18	123.06
Statutory Maternity Pay		
Earnings threshold	90.00	95.00
Standard rate	117.18	123.06
Statutory Paternity Pay		
Earnings threshold	90.00	95.00
Standard Rate	117.18	123.06
Statutory Sick Pay		
Earnings threshold	90.00	95.00
Standard rate	75.40	79.15
Widow's Benefit		
Widowed mother's allowance	90.70	95.25
Widow's pension		
standard rate	90.70	95.25
age-related		
age 54 (49)	84.35	88.58
53 (48)	78.00	81.92
52 (47)	71.65	75.25
51 (46)	65.30	68.58
50 (45)	58.96	61.91
49 (44)	52.61	55.25
48 (43)	46.26	48.58
47 (42)	39.91	41.91
46 (41)	33.56	35.24
45 (40)	27.21	28.58
Note: For deaths occurring before 11 April 1988 refer to age-points shown in brackets.		
Bereavement Benefit		
Bereavement payment (lump sum)	2000.00	2000.00
Widowed parent's allowance	90.70	95.25
Bereavement Allowance		
standard rate	90.70	95.25
age-related		
age 54	84.35	88.58
53	78.00	81.92
52	71.65	75.25
51	65.30	68.58
50	58.96	61.91
49	52.61	55.25
48	46.26	48.58
47	39.91	41.91
46	33.56	35.24
45	27.21	28.58

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 17 December 2008 in Brussels. I will represent the UK, except for the agenda items on the Working Time Directive and European Work Councils, where the UK will be represented by the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden). Health and Consumer Affairs issues are being taken on 16 December.

The first and main agenda item will be an exchange of views and public debate on the social impact of the economic crisis and implementation of the Renewed Social Agenda. The presidency has tabled a range of documents as background to the discussion, including the Commission's communication on a European economic recovery plan and a paper asking three questions to focus the discussion. The Government broadly welcomes the recovery plan and I will outline some of the measures we have taken in the UK.

The presidency will report on the current state of play with the working time directive. The Government believes that the common position achieved at the June Employment Council is a good outcome for Europe and remains in full support of it.

Following a review, the Commission published a proposal on 2 July to recast the European works council directive. The European social parties have produced joint advice on the proposal and have suggested amendments to it. These have been incorporated into the text. The presidency hopes to reach political agreement at the Council meeting.

The Council will also seek political agreement on a proposal for a council directive implementing the agreement concluded by the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and amending Directive 1999/63/EC. The draft directive would implement the agreement of 19 May 2008 on the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, between the representatives of employers and employees in the maritime transport sector in respect of the application of seafarers' living and working conditions. The Government strongly supports the Maritime Labour Convention and the Social Partners Agreement but has asked for a minute statement recording that, whilst we agree the directive should cover the self-employed, we do not accept that article 139 of the Treaty of Rome can provide a legal base for measures intended to apply to the self-employed.

The presidency will present a progress report on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. This directive is intended to "fill in the gaps" and remove the existing hierarchy of equality rights in EU protection against discrimination and harassment. The Government welcomes the opportunity to consider the Commission's proposal for a new directive and will work to ensure that any directive adopted is effective in eliminating discrimination, whilst ensuring that it is in harmony with the delicate balances in our own national legislation.

The Council will seek to adopt the common position on the amended proposal for a regulation for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems and also for determining the content of the Annexes. The Council will agree the text of the whole regulation which implements the co-ordination rules and which has been dealt with on a chapter by chapter basis by several presidencies. The Government are content with the final proposal and fully supports the Council text.

The Council will seek the adoption of conclusions on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market. Following two consultations, the European Commission published a proposal on 3 October 2008 outlining action at EU level to "deepen" the open method of co-ordination through the adoption of common principles and subsequent monitoring and evaluation in the areas which contribute to active inclusion. Active inclusion covers minimum income, active labour market policy and access to services. The text is acceptable to the Government.

The Council will also seek adoption of two sets of conclusions on the review of the implementation by the member states and the EU institutions of the Beijing Platform for Action. The presidency has looked at two areas, indicators concerning women and armed conflicts, and the reconciliation of work and family life. The Government welcomes the indicators, recognises the importance of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and is content with the text of both sets of conclusions.

Under Any Other Business, there will be progress reports from the presidency on proposals for two directives, the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity. There will be information from the presidency and Commission on the recent follow up to the forum on workers' rights and also the recent 'Euroskills events, and there will also be reports from the presidency of recent conferences. The Commission will also provide information on the economic and social impact of Directive 2005/47/EC on the working time of cross border workers which applies generally to the train crew of international rail services.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 16 December 2008

DEFENCE

Snatch Land Rover

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The House will be aware of widespread public concern over the thirty-seven deaths of British servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan as a result of injuries sustained while using Snatch Land Rovers. I have recently been asked to institute a public inquiry into the use of these vehicles. After very careful consideration, I have decided that a public inquiry would not be the right way to proceed. Given the level of parliamentary and public interest in this issue, I want to explain to the House the reasons for my decision. First, however, I wish to put on record my appreciation of the bravery and dedication of each of those thirty-seven people who have so tragically died in the service of their country.

I have sought comprehensive advice on whether the continued use of Snatch is necessary, particularly given the substantial investment we have made in new protected vehicles in recent years. The clear advice to me from military operational commanders, unanimously endorsed by the chiefs of staff, is that Snatch remains essential to the success of our operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In the light of this authoritative assessment, I have decided that it would be inappropriate and unnecessary to conduct an inquiry. These are matters on which I must rely on the considered judgment of military commanders who have experience of conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan and access to specialised military engineering expertise.

It has been suggested that Snatch should be replaced by more heavily armoured vehicles, such as the Warrior or the very successful Mastiff. These are good vehicles and they have an important role to play in our operations, but they cannot be used for all purposes. Even the new Ridgback, the smaller version of Mastiff, will be three times heavier than Snatch. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the nature of the operating environment means that heavier vehicles, which are often constrained largely to main roads, are simply unable to access the places we need to be in order to deliver our objectives.

Furthermore, our tasks in Iraq and Afghanistan are largely ones of counter-insurgency. To do this, we need to win the support and confidence of local people. This can only be done by face-to-face interaction, demonstrating to the local people that we are working in their interests. Our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan has proven that better armoured vehicles, which tend by definition to be larger and heavier, are viewed by the local population as aggressive and intimidating. Their size and weight mean too that they can cause serious damage to roads, buildings, irrigation channels and drainage systems. All these factors can inflame local opinion against UK troops—working in favour of our enemy and actually increasing the threat levels to our people.

It is for these reasons that military commanders require a range of vehicles, from which they can choose the one best suited to the required task—and in this context, there remains a critical requirement for a Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (LPPV), such as the Snatch Land Rover. Small, mobile and agile, it is ideal for allowing engagement with the local population, often in areas which would be inaccessible to heavier vehicles.

However, Snatch itself is not the "unarmoured" vehicle which it is sometimes claimed to be; although lightly armoured, that armour has saved many lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, the Snatch's ballistic protection is derived from composite materials, rather than steel. This limits splintering when penetrated, and means that casualty rates are lower than in comparable vehicles.

It is also important to be clear that we cannot assume that if all those 37 servicemen and women had been in more heavily armoured vehicles they would have survived. We cannot make Snatch, or indeed any other vehicle, invulnerable; any vehicle can be overmatched if faced with an overwhelming attack. It is precisely for this reason that armour can only ever be one factor in the way we protect our people. We employ a layered approach to protection, of which armour is but one part, and the innermost layer. We seek first to avoid being seen by the enemy; then, if seen, to avoid being hit. In both cases, a low profile, coupled with speed and agility, are important factors which critically complement our well tested tactics, techniques and procedures. The recent introduction of the light-strike Jackal vehicle, which has proved very popular, demonstrates the importance we place on these factors, none of which are characteristic of more heavily armoured vehicles. Finally, if hit, we seek to prevent the vehicle from being penetrated. This is the sole reason for armouring our vehicles.

This is not by any means to say that nothing further can be done to protect those servicemen and women who need to operate LPPVs. The Snatch Land Rover has undergone a number of technical enhancements since its first deployment to Iraq in 2003. Most recently, we have modified the current variant, the Snatch 2A, to enhance significantly its power, mobility and protection. This effectively generates a new variant, the Snatch Vixen, especially configured for operations in Afghanistan. Some of these vehicles are already in service in Afghanistan and over the coming year we will be increasing the size of the fleet. This, together with the £700 million procurement of new vehicles which the Prime Minister announced in October, will enable us to continue reducing the scope of the Snatch 2A vehicle's role until it is used only within our camps.

We do not believe that there is a better vehicle than Snatch Vixen currently available anywhere in the world to fulfil the LPPV requirement. But we are also looking to the future and anticipating new threats, and we have begun a programme to develop the next generation of LPPV which will in due course take the place of Snatch Vixen.

Afghanistan Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): In his statement to the House on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, the Prime Minister said we shall continue to maintain a strong military force in

Afghanistan. In his statement to the House yesterday, the Prime Minister recognised the hard and dangerous work being undertaken by our armed forces, and reiterated the United Kingdom's objectives in Afghanistan. The next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in April 2009. The force package that we plan to deploy will see the current lead formation, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, replaced by 19 (Light) Brigade which will command the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The forces deploying include:

19 Light Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (209)
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron
The Light Dragoons
40th Regiment Royal Artillery
38 Engineer Regiment
1st Battalion The Welsh Guards
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters)
2nd Battalion The Rifles
19 Combat Service Support Battalion
29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
2 Medical Regiment
4 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
173 Provost Company Royal Military Police
Elements of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 12th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 26 Engineer Regiment
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographical)
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 15 Field Support Squadron
Elements of 7th Signal Regiment
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 14th Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare)
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)
Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh
Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles
Elements of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 4 Logistic Support Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 6 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 7 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 23 Pioneer Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 27 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps Support Battalion
Elements of 7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 104 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 101 Military Working Dog Support Unit
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of the Joint Civil Military Co-operation Group (CIMIC)
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Force Institute Squadron (Volunteers) The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Elements of 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment
Elements of Joint Medical Command
Elements of 2 Medical Regiment
Elements of 4 Medical Regiment
Elements of 202 Field Hospital (Volunteers)
Elements of 225 Medical Regiment (Volunteers)
Elements to man 904 Expeditionary Air Wing, Royal Air Force
6 Force Protection Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force Regiment
63 Queen's Colour Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment
Elements of 12 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 617 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of the Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements to man the Joint Helicopter Support Unit
Elements of 1 Air Movements Wing, Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 Motor Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of Mobile Catering Support Unit
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of Tactical Armament Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing

These units represent direct replacements for previously announced deployments to Afghanistan. In addition, commanders on the ground need to retain tactical flexibility to call forward reserves on a temporary basis to meet short term operational needs. Elements of 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, the Theatre Reserve Battalion, are deployed or are about to be deployed in this capacity. In his statement yesterday the Prime Minister announced the approval until August, including for the period of preparation for the elections, of an increase in the number of British troops deployed to Afghanistan from just over 8,000 to around 8,300. These additional troops will come from 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and will replace equivalent forces deployed from 2nd Battalion, the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment. These forces will be building on recent security gains in central Helmand.

Volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package, and we expect to issue around 600 call-out notices to fill some 575 posts. On completion of their mobilization procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for six or so months, although some may have shorter tours. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 15 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

The House will also wish to be aware that 19 Light Brigade's deployment will last until October 2009. On current plans, the brigade will then be replaced by 11 Light Brigade. I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to commit from next October in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): The Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham and Deptford (Joan Ruddock), and I attended the 14th conference of the parties (COP14) to the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the parties to the Kyoto protocol (CMP4) in Poznan, Poland last week.

The conference reached agreement to accelerate the pace of negotiations next year in order to conclude a new global climate change agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Other key outcomes from the conference included:

A decision to make operational the adaptation fund, which will help developing countries to integrate climate resilience into their development strategies. The UK is providing further financial support to help the fund with its planning and procedures so that it can begin to receive project proposals in 2009.

Agreement among key developing and developed forestry countries, brokered by the UK, to a framework for countering deforestation, with the UK announcing a contribution of up to £100 million from the environmental transformation fund for capacity-building to help people in forest countries.

In relation to carbon markets some progress was made on discussions, including carbon capture and storage and forestry within the Kyoto protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM), with parties agreeing that the CDM executive board should assess the implications of the possible inclusion of CCS and forestry in the CDM.

Useful discussions were also held under the article 9 review of the Kyoto protocol. Parties considered proposals to extend the current CDM 2 per cent. levy, which is used to provide adaptation funding, to the joint implementation and international emissions trading mechanisms. Although no decisions were made, the discussion provided a useful opportunity to discuss aspects of the future financial architecture which will be critical to a Copenhagen deal.

The Poznan conference represents an important staging post on the way to Copenhagen. The UK and EU played a leading role in the conference, further strengthened by the European Council's agreement to the 2020 climate and energy package. The Government will be working actively over the next 12 months to secure an ambitious global agreement in Copenhagen, consistent with the UK and EU objective of limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): My noble Friend Lord Hunt, the Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation, and I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 4 December.

At this Council, member states set out their views on the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Directive. Several member states raised concerns about the large combustion plant provision with most asking to postpone these provisions until 2020. The UK intervened to welcome the proposal but also to stress some concerns about the large combustion provisions.

Member states also discussed the action plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production and a Sustainable Industrial Policy (SCP-SIP). The UK intervened to welcome the action plan, in particular the proposal to extend the scope of the eco-design directive but highlighted concerns about the energy labelling directive. Council conclusions were adopted without amendment.

Council conclusions on the preparation for the 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council were adopted unanimously.

On genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the UK expressed its support for evidence based, case-by-case decision making and argued strongly against setting seed labelling thresholds at the lowest possible level. Instead these levels should be science based, proportionate and workable in practice. In response to the interventions made by many member states the presidency proposed some changes to the conclusions, including a satisfactory formulation on seed thresholds. These were agreed unanimously.

Over lunch member states discussed the climate and energy package and preparations for the December European Council.

There was a discussion of the Council conclusions on deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. The UK argued in favour of maintaining the flexibility to recognise afforestation and reforestation credits in order to maintain the confidence of both rainforest countries and potential investors. Following negotiation facilitated by the presidency, a compromise was achieved which both retains the flexibility around recognition of forestry credits for Government compliance and expresses openness to considering their recognition for ETS compliance in the medium to long term and subject to thorough review/experience.

The proposal for a regulation setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars as part of the community's integrated approach to reduce CO_2 emissions from light-duty vehicles (CO_2 from cars regulation) originally scheduled as a main agenda item—was not formally discussed at the Council as good progress was being made at discussions at COREPER.

Under 'any other business', the European Commission presented communications on: the dismantling of ships; the EU strategy on invasive alien species; the EU and the Arctic region; and the implementation of European Community environmental law. Additionally, the European Commission presented a Green Paper on biowaste management in the European Union, the preparations of the EUROMED conference and the

EU-Africa Climate Change summit. Finally, the Irish delegation discussed the fall in demand for recycled materials. All AOB items were noted by member states without substantial discussion.

HEALTH

Independent Mental Health Advocate

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): As a result of the Government's Mental Health Act 2007, from 1 April 2009 statutory access to an Independent Mental Health Advocate (IMHA) will be available to qualifying patients in England under the Mental Health Act 1983. IMHAs will help patients to understand the way the Mental Health Act applies to them, and what can and cannot be done as a result. They will also help patients to understand their rights under the Act, and to support them in exercising those rights.

At the end of last year, the Department consulted on draft regulations in relation to IMHA services. In doing so, we specifically sought views on who should commission IMHA services locally. It was clear from responses to the public consultation exercise that there were conflicting views on who should commission and provide advocacy services.

Having carefully considered these responses, the Government have decided that primary care trusts (PCTs) will be responsible for commissioning IMHA services, although to ensure local flexibility, we intend to allow them to exercise their duty with other PCTs and to include commissioning of IMHA services within the scope of partnership arrangements with local social services authorities under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

I have laid regulations today to direct PCTs to commission IMHA services and set appointment requirements for IMHAs. Comprehensive commissioning guidance will be published shortly, to assist PCTs in meeting their statutory duty. PCTs' new duty has been reflected in PCT baseline allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Complaints Audit Committee (UK Border Agency)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce that the independent Complaints Audit Committee (CAC) annual report for the year 2007 to 2008 has been published today. The UK Border Agency's response to this report will be published in two day's time, on 18 December. Copies of both reports will be placed in the House Library and on the Home Office website from the respective dates of publication.

This is the CAC's fourteenth and final report. Their role has been to monitor the effectiveness of the Agency's procedures for handling complaints and this report provides details of their findings. The Agency response provides full details of the positive action taken on the recommendations made by the CAC and highlights the significant improvements which have been made to the complaints system over the past year, as well as continuing work to further improve performance.

JUSTICE

Correction of Statement

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): On 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 720, in answer to an oral supplementary question from my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Edgbaston (Ms Stuart) about voting systems I said that

"My hon. Friend will remember that the closed list system was a manifesto commitment in 1997".

This was incorrect. The 1997 Labour party manifesto commitment was for the introduction of proportional representation for European elections, and did not detail that a closed list system should be used. It was agreed subsequent to the 1997 election that a closed list system should be used.

Freedom of Information Quarterly

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Statistics on implementation in Central Government: Q3 - July - September 2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fourth full year of freedom of information.

Intestate Succession

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 28 August 2008, the Ministry of Justice published its response to its consultation paper, "Administration of Estates - Review of the Statutory Legacy" (CP(R) 11/05) and announced that the levels of the statutory legacy would be increased from £125,000 to £250,000 where the deceased leaves a surviving spouse or civil partner and children and from £200,000 to £450,000 in other cases. The Department also announced that the actuarial tables for converting a surviving spouse's or civil partner's life interest on intestacy into a capital sum were to be updated.

Subject to parliamentary approval, these changes will come into force on 1 February 2009. They will be effected by two statutory instruments. The first, the Family Provision (Intestate Succession) Order 2008 will increase the statutory legacy. It was laid in draft on Wednesday 12 November. The second, the Intestate Succession (Interest and Capitalisation) (Amendment) Order 2008 will update the actuarial tables. It was laid on Thursday 11 December 2009.

The statutory legacy is the fixed net sum payable to a surviving spouse or civil partner from the estate of a person dying intestate—without leaving a valid will. If the estate is of sufficient value, the surviving spouse or civil partner is entitled to a life interest in one half of the balance of the remainder once the statutory legacy has been settled. The surviving spouse or civil partner will receive any income generated from the life interest for the rest of his or her life or can choose to convert it into capital. The conversion is calculated by reference to the actuarial tables.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Guaranteed Minimum Pension Calculations

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Liam Byrne): My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Justice and I wish to alert the House to new checks which have uncovered a problem with payments to an estimated 5 per cent. of public service pensioners paid, by successive administrations dating back as much as 30 years, by the NHS, Teachers, Armed Forces, Judicial and Civil Service pension schemes, as a result of the incorrect indexation of an element known as the Guaranteed Minimum Pension or GMP.

The problem dates back to 1978 when public service occupational pension schemes contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (SERPS). As a condition of contracting out members had a guarantee of a minimum amount of occupational pension. This GMP applied to those who were members of a contracted out scheme between 1978 and 1997 and who would otherwise have been entitled to SERPS.

Public service pensions are uprated in April each year in line with the retail price index. The occupational pension scheme pays for all the uprating before state pension is claimed, but thereafter part of the uprating is paid with the state pension, depending on the GMP entitlement.

To enable the correct pension increases to be applied, pension scheme administrators need accurate GMP information derived from the individual's National Insurance contribution record. Our investigations have revealed that in 95 per cent. of cases this information is correctly recorded. But, in some cases it is not. In those cases schemes have paid the annual increase on the full pension each year instead of on an amount adjusted to reflect the GMP entitlement.

The five schemes mentioned are administered by central Government departments. Scheme administrators and HMRC have now checked more than 2 million pension records.

An estimated 95,000 people are currently affected across the five schemes. This represents around 5 per cent. of the total number of pensioners in those schemes. The total amount of overpayments made by successive administrations over the 30 years since 1978 to these pensioners is estimated at £126 million. There are separate NHS and teachers schemes in Scotland and Northern Ireland and a separate civil service scheme in Northern Ireland. Separate statements are being made in respect of these schemes by the Scottish and Northern Ireland executives today.

The advice of the accounting officers of the five schemes is that it is unlikely to be cost-effective to attempt recovery of these monies from individuals. Correct pension payments will be ordered immediately from April 2009. This means that some pensioners will have their payments reduced and others will see increases in their payments in 2009 which are less than the annual inflation uprating.

Scheme administrators for the five schemes mentioned have written to all those pensioners affected and will write again with full details in the new year. Helplines to respond to their questions and concerns have been set up and advice and guidance has been placed on scheme websites. Support will include advising people to enquire what additional state benefits they may be entitled to.

The causes of the overpayments have been investigated by the pension scheme administrators, HMRC and DWP. There is no single cause. I have asked the National Audit Office to carry out a review of the end to end process to pinpoint accountabilities, and the House will be updated further.

TRANSPORT

Bus Service Operators Group

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Chancellor's pre-Budget report on 24 November announced that, following consultation earlier this year, the Government will be introducing changes to the Department for Transport's Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) to incentivise the use of low-carbon buses and buses with smartcard and global positioning systems and that we would also be challenging the industry to improve its fuel efficiency. I am now announcing further details of these, and a number of other, measures and the steps we are taking to implement them in consultation with the industry and other stakeholders. A summary of the responses to our consultation document "Local Bus Service Support—Options for Reform" is today being placed on the Department's website and in the Libraries of both Houses.

An important element of the measures is a change to the present arrangement under which changes in the rate of fuel duty are matched by changes in BSOG rates. Given the challenge of the Climate Change Act to reduce UK carbon emissions, automatic uprating of BSOG is no longer appropriate. It is important, however, to give bus operators time to adjust to this change and to put in place action to improve fuel efficiency.

Accordingly, I have decided that BSOG rates in England should be increased to match the 2p increase in fuel duty which was implemented on 1 December. There will then be no further increases in BSOG rates which will apply automatically to all claimants of the grant. Instead, in April 2010, BSOG rates will be uprated for those operators who have achieved an improvement in fuel efficiency equivalent to 3 per cent. per annum for each of the two previous years; we will be reviewing the figure annually to consider the scope for increasing the efficiency requirements. This is an achievable target as has been shown by studies into the improvements in fuel efficiency that can be brought about by improved driving techniques. Final arrangements on this—and on the measures below—will follow detailed discussions between officials and the bus industry.

The other measures we will be taking forward in discussion with stakeholders will be:

introduction of incentives in the form of differential BSOG rates, or a distance based subsidy, for use of low-carbon buses; we would aim to bring these in as soon as possible, ideally in 2009, but final decisions would need to take account of detailed discussions with stakeholders;

a review by 2011 with the intent of using a fuel efficiency cap or differential rates of BSOG in the future to further incentivise a switch to lower emission vehicles delivering at least Euro V emission standards, especially as the challenge of meeting air quality targets in the future may have a carbon penalty;

introduction from April 2010 of incentives in the form of differential BSOG rates for buses equipped with smartcard readers and GPS systems; we will discuss how these requirements can best be certified or audited with stakeholders, and will also want to explore the provision of resulting data to help in compiling national statistics;

replacement of BSOG for operators in the Transport for London (TfL) contracted network by payment of an equivalent sum passed direct to TfL; officials have been discussing the details of this with TfL and I intend to introduce this change as soon as practical;

as with London, BSOG funding would be devolved where a Quality Contract (franchising) is in place outside London;

funding of a SAFED (Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving) demonstration project to encourage fuel efficient driving in the bus and coach sector; and,

establishment of a working group with stakeholders to discuss details of the implementation of these measures and also to take forward consideration, as envisaged in the consultation document, of these and longer term options for changes to bus subsidies, including a possible change to a per passenger basis and further consideration of the scope for an emissions-based tiered approach to payments; we will be working closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs in taking these measures forward.

I have decided, given the potential impact on the industry's cash flow, not to take forward the proposal in the consultation document that BSOG should be changed to a payment in arrears basis.

Further announcements on the details of changes will be made as our discussions with stakeholders and other Departments progress.

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I attended the EU Transport Council in Brussels on 9 December.

The Council discussed the regulation amending the four regulations adopted in 2004 which established the Single European Sky (SES). The amending regulation consolidates and strengthens the earlier regulations, with the aim of improving the performance and sustainability of the European aviation system. Ministers were in agreement on the technical elements of the new proposal. I joined several other Ministers in expressing strong support for the package. It was not however possible for member states to reach a general approach, as an issue regarding applicability of the new legislation to Gibraltar was raised just before the Council. I and the Spanish Minister undertook to resolve this issue bilaterally, so that Council agreement on this important proposal can be achieved soon.

The Council was given a presidency progress report on an amending regulation extending the responsibilities of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The Council reached a partial general approach—on extension of EASA's scope to air traffic management and air navigation services. The progress report also covered the provisions on extension of scope to aerodrome safety matters. The presidency underlined the Agency's important work of inspection and certification in these areas, as an integral part of the Single European Sky package.

The Council adopted two decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations towards comprehensive aviation agreements with Tunisia and Algeria. The UK supports these mandates.

The presidency and the Commission reported on the successful outcome of negotiations on an EU-Canada aviation agreement. I thanked the Commission for its work on this good agreement, which may be signed during the Czech presidency.

The presidency tabled a report on progress to date in consideration of a proposed Directive to amend Directive 1999-62 on charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructure—the "Eurovignette" Directive. The proposal aims to provide member states with the flexibility to introduce charges for lorries, to internalise the costs of congestion, noise and air pollution. The presidency noted that considerable progress had been made towards agreement on a number of issues, but further discussion would be needed on questions such as the inclusion of congestion charging, the methodology for calculating the level of external cost charges and the question of hypothecation—earmarking—of income from charges. The UK supports the principles underlying the proposal but opposes mandatory hypothecation of revenues. The Czech Republic will aim to reach agreement on this proposal in Council during its presidency.

The presidency gave a progress report on the proposed directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety, noting that there had been a wide consensus on the need to take action in this area and hoping that further progress will be made during the Czech presidency.

The Council adopted conclusions on the greening of transport, the Commission's strategy for the internalisation of external costs in transport and the reduction of rail noise on existing rolling stock. The UK supported the conclusions.

The Council adopted a resolution on the establishment of a European regional data centre for the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) of ships. This is the implementation in Europe of a Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulation adopted by the IMO in 2006. The resolution is acceptable to the UK.

Adopted by the Council without debate—as "A points"—were common positions on proposals on flag state requirements and the civil liability of shipowners, both of which are part of the third maritime legislative package. The other six proposals in the package had already been adopted by the Council, and the presidency announced agreement on those between the Council and the European Parliament in the Conciliation Committee the previous day.

Freight Discussion Document

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Today the Department for Transport is publishing "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System - The Logistics Perspective".

In the UK we are fortunate to have a world-leading logistics industry. However, with many businesses relying on just-in-time methods, the success of our economy depends on the effective and predictable movement of goods.

The logistics perspective publication provides the Government's first detailed analysis of the movement of major freight commodities on the strategic national corridors, while setting out our understanding of the issues affecting each freight mode. It also considers how we can work with industry to facilitate effective freight movement while mitigating its environmental and social impact.

As part of this consideration, the document commits to a study into the potential effects of an increase of up to 2 metres in the length of articulated vehicle trailers. The study will consider whether there are clear benefits in changing the permitted length to reduce the numbers of lorries on roads, taking into account freight demand and the interaction between road, rail and water transport.

The logistics perspective marks the next milestone in the Government's transport strategy following our November 2008 "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" document, which identified the UK's strategic national corridors.

A copy of "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System - The Logistics Perspective" has been placed in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Autumn Performance Report

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am announcing my intention to publish the Autumn Performance Report of the Department for Work and Pensions on Thursday 18 December. The report is intended to supplement the Department's annual report published in May 2008.

The report is the Department's first report under CSR 2007 on its cross-governmental public service agreements, its departmental strategic objectives and its value for money delivery agreement.

This publication has been specifically designed to be accessed online, on the grounds of sustainability and potential financial savings, and will be available on the Department's website from 18 December. For the convenience of Members, copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 17 December 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Speech, Language and Communications Needs

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Secretary of State for Health and I are today publishing "Better Communication: An Action Plan to Improve Services for Children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs" (SLCN). Copies of the action plan will be placed in the Libraries.

Last year, we asked the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) to review services for children and young people with SLCN. His report, published on 8 July 2008, set out 40 recommendations to improve services across five key themes: communication is crucial, a key life skill at the heart of every social interaction and vital to children's successful development; early identification and intervention is essential to maximise each child's chance of overcoming their communication need and succeeding; a continuum of services designed around the family is needed for children with SLCN; joint working is critical to deliver services that provide effective support; and the current system is characterised by high variability and a lack of equity.

Today's action plan provides the Government's full response to the Bercow report. As we announced in July, we accept the report's key recommendations and up to £12 million would be invested in providing national leadership to improve services for children with SLCN. The action plan sets out a range of initiatives across Government that will improve services for children and young people with SLCN culminating in the National Year of Speech, Language and Communication in 2011-12. This includes:

Up to 20 local area pathfinders will be used to develop good practice guidance and a supplemental joint commissioning framework on SLCN;

Up to £1.5 million will be invested in grants to the alternative and augmentative communication sector; and

Up to £1.5 million will be invested in a research programme looking at SLCN over the next three years.

To provide ongoing support to the delivery of these initiatives over the next three years, we will form a Communication Council and appoint a Communication Champion early in 2009. The Communication Council will provide Government with ongoing advice and support on how best to develop effective services for children with SLCN. The Communication Champion will be appointed to raise awareness of speech, language and communication issues and work with delivery partners to co-ordinate initiatives and organise the National Year of Speech, Language and Communication.

The Government will also commission a review of progress to improve services for children and young people with SLCN in summer 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Zero Carbon Homes and Non-domestic Buildings

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): Today I am publishing a consultation on the definition of zero carbon homes and zero carbon non-domestic buildings, and a supporting impact assessment on zero carbon homes. These documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

In July 2007, following a full consultation, Communities and Local Government published "Building a Greener Future"—policy statement. This stated that all new homes would be zero carbon from 2016. In 2010, and 2013, building regulations would be strengthened to reduce carbon emissions by 25 per cent and 44 per cent as stepping stones towards that goal. Budget 2008 announced our ambition that new public sector non-domestic buildings would be zero carbon from 2018, and other new non-domestic buildings would be zero carbon from 2019.

The consultation being published today seeks views on:

a definition of zero carbon homes which would significantly reduce carbon emissions while allowing for a combination of on-site, near-site and off-site solutions; and

the feasibility and timetable for achieving a similar standard for new non-domestic buildings.

Zero Carbon Homes

In "Building a Greener Future", we described a zero carbon home as having zero net emissions of carbon dioxide from all energy used to run the home, including an allowance for appliances, over the course of a year. We anticipated that this would be achieved through low and zero carbon energy sources installed on-site or directly connected to the development, although recognised that offsetting may be required in some developments. Industry called for early certainty as to the definition to enable them to plan. Meanwhile, technical work carried out for the 2016 Task Force, which oversees implementation of the policy, indicated that near-site and off-site solutions would be necessary to reach the zero carbon standard in a larger number of homes.

The detailed definition proposed in this consultation document maintains the ambition in building a greener future, and makes proposals for when and how near-site and off-site solutions may be used in achieving zero carbon homes. The proposals recognise the potential for carbon emissions from energy use in homes to be tackled through community scale heat and renewable energy generation, or exports of heat from a home to its surroundings. The aim of the proposals is to frame an ambitious but achievable objective that will greatly enhance standards of homes while promoting innovation and providing certainty to industry.

Under the proposals set out, a zero carbon home will need to:

incorporate high levels of energy efficiency;

achieve at least a minimum level of reductions in carbon emissions—compared to current building regulations—through a combination of energy efficiency, on-site low and zero carbon energy supply and directly connected heat; and tackle remaining emissions from a menu of good quality "allowable solutions" such as community scale heat or energy generation.

Significant issues for debate through this consultation include:

the overall level of ambition on energy efficiency, i.e. how far regulations should push standards for the fabric of the home;

the minimum level of carbon reduction to be achieved onsite—including through connections to heat networks—; and

the range of allowable solutions proposed and the maximum cost that it would be reasonable to expect to be spent, per tonne of carbon dioxide, on the allowable solutions in order to achieve the zero carbon homes standard.

This maximum cost will inform a further review of the allowable solutions, which we propose to undertake in 2012, once we have a clearer picture on the extent and cost of allowable solutions that will be available by 2016.

Non-domestic buildings

Evidence on energy usage in non-domestic buildings is less developed than that for homes, but it is clear that it varies greatly from building to building according to their use. Office buildings, factories, shops, hospitals are all constructed differently and use energy in different ways, because of the very different purposes that they serve. The Government maintains its ambition that all new non-domestic buildings will be zero carbon from 2019 but recognises the need to improve the evidence base before determining the right way forward in order to realise this ambition. We are therefore taking this opportunity to set out our current thinking, inviting views and submissions of evidence to supplement our analysis. A more detailed consultation will be held during 2009.

Next steps

The consultation will close on 18 March 2009 and will be followed, in summer 2009, by a policy statement on zero carbon homes and a further, in-depth consultation on zero carbon non-domestic buildings. In early 2009, we will also be consulting, on the amendments to be made to the building regulations in 2010 in order to achieve an interim reduction of 25 per cent of emissions, as the first step along the way to the zero carbon homes standard.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Waterways Board (Salaries)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8(2) of the first schedule to the Transport Act 1962, the following information is furnished by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 8(1) of that schedule, and now vested in him, the Secretary of State has determined, with the approval of the Treasury, that, with effect from 1 July 2008, the salaries of the members of the British Waterways Board shall be as follows:

	Fees (£)	*Allowances (£)*	*Annual Remuneration (£)*
Tony Hales (Chair)	50,600		50,600
Richard Bowker (Vice Chair)	17,184	2,500	19,684
Margaret Carver	13,030	2,500	15,530
Eric Prescott	13,030	2,000	15,030
John Bridgeman	13,030	4,500	17,530
John Bywater	13,030	2,000	15,030
Prodoman Sarwal	13,030	2,000	15,030
Nigel Hugill	13,030	2,000	15,030
Duncan Sutherland*	13,030	3,000	16,030
Jonathan Hargreaves*	13,030	3,500	16,530

* Scottish Ministers' Appointee

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): Following successful trial runs earlier this month, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has now begun to make full payments under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme (SPS). As at 16 December, just over £700 million had been paid to around 21,000 claimants and the RPA is planning to make further payment runs before Christmas.

This represents a good start towards the RPA meeting its targets of making 75 per cent. of SPS 2008 payments, by value, by the end of January 2009 and 90 per cent. by the end of March 2009.

JUSTICE

Family Legal Aid Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

"Today the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publish a consultation paper, Family Legal Aid Funding From 2010, which sets out proposals for legal aid payments for family work to apply from 2010.

Currently there are different advocacy payment schemes depending on the profession of the advocate and on whether they are a self-employed advocate, such as a barrister, or an in-house advocate, such as a solicitor or employed barrister. Self-employed barristers can be paid significantly more than in-house barristers or solicitors for the same work. The consultation paper proposes a new scheme that pays the same fee for the same work regardless of whether the advocate is a barrister or a solicitor by profession.

The proposed scheme recognises that some cases are more complex than others, and additional payments are available, for both barrister and solicitor advocates, for additional interim hearings, and for lengthy final hearings. Different fees are also available for advocates' meetings in child care or supervision proceedings in order to support the new judicial case management protocol: the Public Law Outline.

Particularly complex cases, such as child abduction or wardship proceedings, are outside the proposed scheme and will continue to be paid under existing arrangements. Very High Cost Cases will also be remunerated separately as is presently the case.

The consultation also includes proposals to remove from funding certain expert disbursements, in order that civil legal aid funds are better focused on clients. The consultation closes on 18 March 2009, and any changes would be implemented in 2010.

Expenditure on legal aid barrister family advocacy has risen from £74m to nearly £100m in the last five years. To address this, and to protect client services, the MoJ and the LSC consulted on changes to the Family Graduated Fee Scheme, which governs payments to barristers for family legal aid work, between the 18 June and 10 September 2008. Our consultation was announced in a statement made by my noble Friend, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, on 18th June, *Official Report*, column WS 81. I will inform Parliament of my decision on this matter before the February recess.

The consultation document Family Legal Aid Funding From 2010 is available on the LSC website at www.legalservices.gov.uk and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office."

Cremation Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I wish to make the following statement to the House about new Cremation Regulations for England and Wales. New cremation regulations were laid in Parliament on 3 November 2008 and replace the 1930 Cremation Regulations, which are now seen as confusing and outdated. They therefore required modernisation and consolidation.

These new regulations come into effect on 1 January 2009, with a transitional period of one month, during which time both old and new statutory forms may be used. The right of families to inspect the medical forms completed by doctors, contained for the first time in the new regulations, is a significant reform and follows recommendations from Dame Janet Smith's inquiry into the Harold Shipman murders. The new regulations are an interim measure which will be replaced by a new system of death certification, on which the Department of Health is leading. The Coroners and Justice Bill mentioned in the Queen's Speech on 3 December will create the role of medical examiner. The Medical Examiner will examine all deaths not requiring coronial post mortem or inquest, including those where the method of disposal is burial. The Cremation Regulations will no longer be required in their present form once the medical examiner system has come into effect throughout England and Wales.

These new regulations allow the applicant for cremation to inspect the medical forms of a deceased family member before a cremation takes place. The applicant will be able to draw the medical referee's attention to any concerns about unexpected symptoms or discrepancies in the case.

The countersignature on the application form has been abolished, and instead a warning about making a false statement has been placed on all of the forms. Making such a false statement is a criminal offence under section 8(2) of the Cremation Act 1902 and is punishable by up to 2 years' imprisonment.

The Secretary of State appoints medical referees on the nomination of the cremation authority and will also now have a power to revoke the appointment of a referee on the grounds of incapacity or misbehaviour. Guidance may also be provided for cremation authorities when considering who they would ask the Secretary of State to appoint as a medical referee.

There are also new statutory forms to permit the cremation of stillborn babies, as well as modernised versions of the forms made under the 1930 Regulations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (Independent Reviewer's Report)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): Robert Whalley CB has submitted his first report as independent reviewer of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (the "2007 Act"). I have today arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report of the independent reviewer covers the operation of section 21 to 32 of the 2007 act and also the procedures adopted by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland for receiving, investigating and responding to complaints. The report covers the period 1 August 2007 to 31 May 2008.

The report provides a positive assessment of the use of the powers under the 2007 Act and makes clear the need for their continued requirement. The report provides a valuable reassurance to both the public and Government on the use of these powers ensuring that they are exercised appropriately and proportionately.

The report paints a positive assessment of the procedures adopted by the GOC for dealing with military complaints. I welcome Mr. Whalley's undertaking to explore this issue in more detail in his next report.

I welcome the recommendations made by Robert Whalley and I will consider them carefully.

TRANSPORT

Private Hire Vehicles (Bus Provisions)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): Section 53 of the Local Transport Act 2008 allows the owners of private hire vehicles (PHVs or minicabs) to provide local bus services in the way that taxis (hackney carriages) are already able to do. This will bring benefits in extending the range of transport services available, particularly to those in rural areas

I have today published a consultation paper seeking views on the draft regulations which are necessary to enable PHV owners to use their vehicles in this way.

The draft regulations will apply in England (outside London), Wales and Scotland. Transport for London are responsible for making any regulations governing PHV-buses in London.

Copies of the consultation—including the draft regulations and a consultation-stage impact assessment—have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The documents are also available on the Department for Transport's website.

Those wishing to comment on the proposals have until 13 March 2009 to do so.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Dependency Increases

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I would like to announce measures to ensure that people who have dependent children will continue to receive the benefit they are entitled to through child dependency increases, payable with incapacity benefit, state pension, widows benefit, bereavement benefit, and carer's allowance.

The Child Benefit Act 2005 introduced a new definition of "qualifying young person" used to decide whether or not child benefit is payable for people aged 16 to 19. However, the Act did not make corresponding amendments to provisions for child dependency increases made under the Tax Credits Act 2002.

As a result, payments of child dependency increases, where the child is aged 16 years or over are not covered by primary legislation from 10 April 2006. This omission in primary legislation was an oversight and did not reflect Parliament's intentions. Consequently these payments are considered irregular.

We estimate that 28,800 increases are affected in 2006-07 and 24,500 in 2007-08, with the level of overpayment amounting to approximately £15.1 million in 2006-07 and £12.6 million in 2007-08.

To enable payments of child dependency increases to continue as normal, we will reverse the unintentional effects of the Child Benefit Act 2005, by including a measure in the forthcoming Welfare Reform Bill. We expect this to be introduced in early 2009.

In the meantime I am issuing this statement to provide transparency and an assurance that no-one will lose any benefit entitlement or be asked to make any repayment as a result of this oversight in legislation.

This statement has been approved by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 18 December 2008

TREASURY

Automated Teller Machines

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Following the March 2005 Treasury Committee report on ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) charging, the Treasury invited the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, the right hon. John McFall, to chair a working group on ATMs to take forward work on key issues. The working group, which included banks, independent ATM operators and consumer groups, published its report on 13 December 2006.

The Government are pleased to report that the industry has, over the 24 months following publication of the ATM Working Group's report, made excellent progress towards its goal of placing around 600 non-charging machines across 1,707 low-income areas within the UK, which were identified as lacking convenient access. Around 2 million individuals on low incomes should stand to benefit. Since the publication of the working group report, LINK has assessed that around 10 per cent. of the identified low-income areas are unsuitable for an ATM location, as there is no centre of population.

As of 21 November 2008, sites for 560 of the 600 new ATMs required have been identified. Of these, 527 new free machines are already in use and issuing cash to the public. In March 2007, a market-based financial incentive—known as a "financial inclusion premium"—was introduced, to encourage ATM operators to place or retain free ATMs in deprived areas with a low expected volume of transactions. Some 67 per cent. of these ATMs that are based in the target deprived areas receive the "financial inclusion premium". Encouragingly, 26 of these new cash machines have proved so popular that their level of withdrawals means that they have now graduated from the "financial inclusion premium" scheme, 17 more since July 2008 statement.

Banks, building societies and independent ATM operators have all contributed new free-to-use cash machines; independent ATM operators have provided or are in the process of supplying around 34 per cent. of the confirmed new non-charging ATMs. The UK ATM network, LINK, is continuing to work with its member banks and ATM operators to identify suitable sites in the remaining target areas, and is engaging closely in this exercise with Members of Parliament, local authorities, consumer councils and retailers.

The benefits in terms of financial inclusion are clear. Data from LINK suggest that the new ATMs currently in operation or under contract will enable over 1.4 million residents in the target low-income areas to access cash more conveniently and manage their money more effectively.

The working group further agreed to implement improved transparency rules for charging cash machines. Operators of cash machines that charge users for withdrawals and that can upload screens remotely, have met by the end of June 2007, deadline to improve the on-screen standards of "at a glance" signage. This means that it is clear to a consumer when a charge is applied when withdrawing cash. Good progress was also made by operators in enhancing external signage by the end of December 2007.

The ATM Working Group report of December 2006 further recommended developing a joined up policy approach to planning permissions. On 24 November 2008, the final report of the Government commissioned independent Killian Pretty review on 'Planning applications: A faster and more responsive process' was published. The review put forward proposals to deliver a planning system that would be more customer focused, fair, proportionate and transparent. The Government have signalled that they supports the broad thrust of the report. In the new year, the Department for Communities and Local Government intends to publish a fuller response to the recommendations, together with an implementation plan.

One of the recommendations in the report included revising and expanding the existing simpler consenting system for certain types of development—known as prior approvals. Research published alongside the Killian Pretty report proposed that the prior approval process might include ATMs.

A review of information requirements for the validation of planning applications was also published alongside the Killian Pretty report. This review included consideration of design and access statements, which accompany planning applications, including those for externally located ATMs. The review recommended that existing guidance on design and access statements should be updated, in particular to provide advice on how crime should be addressed.

The Government are encouraged by the substantial progress achieved, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in extending free access to cash to those who need it the most.

Full details about progress made are available on the LINK Internet website: http://www.link.co.uk/atm/access_to_cash. Proposals for additional ATM sites can also continue to be made to LINK.

Finance Bill (Technical Tax Amendments)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am today announcing the Government's intention to present to Parliament as part of Finance Bill 2009 two specific tax changes which will ensure that tax rules and in particular anti-avoidance legislation does not apply unfairly in circumstances arising out of the current turmoil in the financial markets and prevent companies suffering unintended or unforeseen tax effects as a result.

The first proposed legislative change will better identify who are the real equity holders in a business, for group tax purposes. This change to the group tax rules will apply to all companies. In particular, when banks and other financial institutions issue certain preference shares in order to boost their Tier 1 capital base in the form approved by financial regulators this change will ensure that their existing group structure, for tax purposes, is not broken. These preference shares are shares that carry a right to a fixed dividend or a dividend at a fixed rate, but in order to satisfy the regulatory requirements the issuer may have the right to pay a lower dividend in certain circumstances. The change will mean that such preference shareholders are no longer treated as equity holders for group tax purposes solely because that regulatory requirement is met. The change will apply retrospectively for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008 for all existing shares, but companies will have a right to elect for the changes to apply only to new share issues to ensure that no businesses are unfairly affected.

The second proposed legislative change will allow companies that prepare their accounts in foreign currencies to carry any unused tax losses forward in the foreign currency instead of sterling. This change will apply to all companies preparing their accounts in a foreign currency. It will be of particular benefit, at this time, to foreign banks trading in the UK. It will ensure that the losses will offset the same measure of profits in future years without the companies and the Exchequer being exposed to foreign exchange risk on those losses. The change will apply to unused losses carried forward to accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008 but with a right to elect for it to apply only to future losses to ensure that no businesses are unfairly affected by the change.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government have today published the Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans on 21 July 2008.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/gypsiesandtravellers/gypsyandtravellersitedataandstat/

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television Food Advertising (Children)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): The Government are committed to tackling childhood obesity and to supporting parents' efforts to reduce the exposure of children to advertising of foods high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS). We have worked closely with Ofcom and the Advertising Standards Authority to significantly tighten the rules on broadcast food promotion to children.

Ofcom announced in November 2006 that it would begin to phase in restrictions on the advertising of HFSS foods to children. This began on 1 April 2007, and the final phase will be introduced on 1 January 2009. When making this announcement, Ofcom committed to reviewing the impact of the restrictions in late 2008. The Government subsequently asked Ofcom to bring forward that review to begin in July 2008. Ofcom has now published its review and copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government welcome Ofcom's report and the progress made to date which has shown that the restrictions introduced have already had a significant impact on reducing children's exposure to broadcast HFSS food advertising.

Ofcom estimates that the amount of HFSS advertising on television seen by children aged 4 to15 fell by an estimated 34 per cent. over the review period. For younger children, the estimated reduction was greater, at 39 per cent.; for older children, slightly less, at 28 per cent.

Ofcom has committed to further review the effects of the full HFSS restrictions in early 2010.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Markets

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): I am today laying before Parliament the Government's 2008 Energy Markets Outlook report. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Uplands Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Government are committed to continued support for upland farmers, to reward them for the landscape and other environmental benefits their efforts achieve. This directly reflects the crucial role that hill farmers play in shaping the upland landscape and its environment.

In 2006 the Government announced that uplands support in England would be integrated into Environmental Stewardship from 2010, replacing the Hill Farm Allowance (HFA). More recently I confirmed that we would do this through a specific uplands strand to Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), and that further details would be announced before the end of the year. Following discussion of our proposals with the hill farming community, and testing on 66 hill farms, I am pleased now to outline the full details of 'Uplands ELS'.

We have made a number of changes to the technical detail of uplands ELS to make it more practical and attractive for farmers, while still making a significant contribution towards our environmental objectives. These changes respond directly to views expressed by stakeholders and the hill farming community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this process.

Our aim is to achieve an uptake of at least 80 per cent. of the uplands. At this rate we would expect to spend over £25 million per year compared with £23.7 million under the HFA. We are prepared to make available up to £31 million within the existing Rural Development Programme budget to fund a higher uptake should more farmers choose to enter Uplands ELS.

Unlike the HFA, all farms in England's severely disadvantaged areas—including those in the dairy sector—will be eligible to receive Uplands ELS, in return for the environmental benefits they sign up to deliver. And we are also including a commons supplement within Uplands ELS, to recognise the additional costs involved for commoners to reach agreement. This will be supplemented by clear guidance from Government stressing the critical role played by the active commoner in delivering the environmental and landscape benefits we are seeking. We will also continue to support the uplands through other mechanisms: for instance, 80 per cent. of the uplands have been identified by Natural England as target areas for enhanced support under Higher Level Stewardship.

The change from the HFA to Uplands ELS will require a period of adjustment for hill farmers. To help this transition, we are putting in place the following arrangements:

We will extend the HFA for one further year, so that farmers receive their last HFA payment in 2010—rather than 2009, as previously announced;

The start date for Uplands ELS agreements will be from 1 July 2010;

We will provide transitional payments for farmers with land still in the pre-Environmental Stewardship schemes—Countryside Stewardship or ESA agreements—from 2011, providing they received the HFA in 2010 on that land.

These arrangements will significantly smooth the impact on farmers' cash flow, reducing the payment gap that they would otherwise face between the annual HFA and their first Uplands ELS payment from a minimum of 16 months down to only 10 months.

The July start date for Uplands ELS agreements will also provide farmers with time to understand how it will fit on their farm. Further to this, we are significantly boosting the level of advice that will be available to upland farmers to help them enter Uplands ELS. Further details on this enhanced advice programme will be available from Natural England next year.

Providing transitional payments for farmers with land still in Countryside Stewardship or ESA agreements will ensure we do not penalise these early adopters of agri-environment schemes who will generally be ineligible for Uplands ELS—due to double funding rules—until the end of their existing agreements.

Farmers with tenancy arrangements of less than five years will be able to enter Uplands ELS, providing their landlord countersigns the application. This is necessary under EU rules to ensure we achieve the environmental benefits for the full length of the agri-environment commitment.

Uplands ELS explicitly recognises the importance of the active grazier, and we therefore see the involvement of tenant farmers as essential to delivering the benefits that we are seeking—for example, by keeping a minimum level of stock on moorland. It is the Government's firm view that the role of the grazier should be fully recognised when landowners and tenants reach agreement on entering Uplands ELS. Officials will continue to work with the National Farmers Union, Tenant Farmers Association and Country Land and Business Association to maximise uptake of Uplands ELS, including by farmers with tenancy arrangements of less than five years. I have asked the Tenancy Reform Industry Group to take this forward.

We will keep the scheme under review and will monitor the longer term benefits of all agri-environment schemes in the uplands. We will review the uptake and administration of Uplands ELS before the end of the current rural development programme in 2013, looking particularly at the impact on groups such as tenant farmers and commoners.

As the HFA and Uplands ELS are funded under the Rural Development Programme for England, we shall now seek Commission approval for a modification to the programme to give effect to these proposals, once we have formally consulted the RDPE Programme Monitoring Committee.

I believe the final design of Uplands ELS achieves the right balance between being practical for farmers and beneficial to the uplands environment, and will help achieve our objective of landscape scale coverage.

Further detail about the design of Uplands ELS can be found on the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk/rural/uplands

HOME DEPARTMENT

Work Restrictions (Romanian and Bulgarian Nationals)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today announcing the Government's decision in relation to restrictions on the labour market access of migrants coming to the UK from Romania and Bulgaria.

We have decided to maintain the closure of Tier 3 of the points based system, for unskilled migrant labour from outside the European Economic Area.

We have decided to retain the current restrictions on the employment rights applied to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania beyond the end of this year, subject to the following changes:

The current quota of 3,500 places under the Sectors Based Scheme for the food processing sector will remain unchanged but may be opened up to a wider range of occupations within the sector.

The quota for the number of Bulgarian and Romanian workers admitted under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) will be 21,250 places in 2009.

We will review these arrangements before the end of 2009.

We have previously made clear our intention to gradually open access to our labour market following accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007. This decision is in line with that policy of gradual opening of the labour market.

We sought advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) on the labour market impact of relaxing restrictions, and whether it would be sensible to do so. The committee has produced an impressive and comprehensive report, which it is publishing today.

I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. In advising against lifting restrictions the committee pointed in particular to the impact of the current economic downturn, and the possible approach of other member states. We also sought views from members of the Migration Impacts Forum, which provides information to Government on the wider impacts of migration on local areas and services.

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Western European Union (UK Delegation)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The hon. Member for Ryedale (Mr. Greenway) has been appointed as a full member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of Baroness Hooper. Baroness O'Cathain OBE has been appointed as a substitute Member in place of the hon. Member for Ryedale.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I confirm that the Prime Minister has received Sir Peter Gibson's review of Intercept Intelligence material available to the Security and Intelligence Agencies in relation to the Omagh bombing and how any material was shared.

As the Prime Minister made clear when Sir Peter Gibson was asked to carry out his review, a statement to Parliament will be made as soon as possible after the Government have considered the Report.

TRANSPORT

Airport Security

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): In her statement of 16 July 2008, my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), in conjunction with the Home Office, announced the launch of a consultation on aspects of proposed legislation designed to deliver more effective policing and security planning arrangements at airports.

The consultation sought views on the proposed new security planning process which requires the majority of airports in the UK to agree a local airport security plan with their key stakeholders based upon threat and risk analysis. The process also allows any agreed dedicated policing element of this plan to be charged to the airport operator.

I am grateful to our stakeholders from the aviation sector and police for their considered responses to the consultation. I have carefully considered the views that were expressed and have consequently asked that legislative proposals be enhanced to provide for ministerial determination of disputes. The draft legislation has also been enhanced to ensure that it is sufficiently flexible and scalable to apply to airports whatever their size.

The new security planning process was also shaped by stakeholder views in other ways, in particular, through a programme board which included senior representatives from our key stakeholder groups. Feedback provided at various local stakeholder events and the views aired at our national stakeholder event in November have also been important considerations.

These proposals will now be taken forward in the Policing and Crime Bill which will be introduced in the House today.

The response to the consultation will be published on the Department for Transport's website shortly and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Transport Governance Reviews

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The effect of section 96 of the Local Transport Act 2008 is to empower the Secretary of State to issue guidance on the carrying out by local authorities of reviews of transport governance arrangements in their area and on the establishment of Integrated Transport Authorities.

This guidance will be published shortly, and will be available on the Department for Transport's website, www.dft.gov.uk. Copies will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Local Transport Plans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am announcing today a consultation on draft Guidance for Local Transport Plans (LTPs). Local transport authorities in England—excluding London—are required to have regard to guidance when preparing such plans.

The guidance sets out how Government expects local transport authorities to plan and deliver better transport from 2011 onwards. It enables local transport authorities to prepare LTPs that meet their own needs, integrating transport closely with wider local priorities and key services. It sets out the importance of regional and national transport goals, such as supporting the economy, reducing transport's emission of greenhouse gases, and promoting greater health, equality of opportunity and quality of life.

The guidance explains the changes to the statutory framework for local transport plans brought about by the recent Local Transport Act 2008, which amends the Transport Act 2000.

Consultation will last 16 weeks, finishing on 9 April 2009. It is available at www.dft.gov.uk/ltp. Stakeholders will continue to be involved throughout the consultation period and final Guidance will be published in summer 2009.

I have placed copies of the new guidance in the Libraries of both Houses.

Petition

Wednesday 3 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Nurseries Code of Practice

The Petition of professionals in the nursery sector, concerned parents and members of the public,

Declares that nurseries, pre-schools and day-care providers fulfil a vital role in the development of pre-school children and that voluntary, private and independent nurseries provide the overwhelming majority of nursery care. The Government's new code of practice fundamentally changes the rules regarding the provision of free nursery places for three and four year olds. They are concerned that the new code of practice could cause significant financial harm and insecurity in the nursery sector, and force existing, trusted nurseries out of business, creating uncertainty for parents and children.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to halt the implementation of this code of practice and undertake an urgent assessment of its impact on nurseries.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Burrowes, Official Report,* 21 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 1159 .]

[P000139]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

The key principle underpinning the delivery of the early education entitlement for three and-four-year olds is that it should be completely free at the point of delivery for every child regardless of their parent's circumstances. Charging parents for access to the free entitlement can present an unacceptable financial barrier for some families, which may restrict their choice of provider and in some cases deny children access to the free early education entitlement.

The requirement not to charge parents any fee for the minimum free early education entitlement is not new. It has been made clear in previous versions of the code of practice since 2003 and the 2006 code of practice simply sets it out again explicitly. The single substantive change to the delivery of the free early education entitlement, set out in the 2006 code of practice, was the extension of the minimum free entitlement from 33 to 38 weeks. Following consultation, the Government recognised that not all providers would be able to extend their provision to 38 weeks and that, at the relevant local authority's discretion, they could be funded for the provision they actually delivered. In addition, all local authorities received additional funding to support the extension to the free entitlement. As a result the Government concluded there should not be an impact on early education providers.

The Government invests £3 billion each year to support the delivery of the free entitlement—the highest level ever invested by any Government. This sum is sufficient to deliver high-quality early learning and care for all eligible three and four-year-olds in a range of settings in accordance with the Foundation Stage curriculum and daycare standards. Funding is provided to local authorities who are responsible for setting the rate at which they fund providers for delivery of the entitlement.

Our proposed reforms support the extension of the free entitlement and aim to address the inconsistencies in how the offer is currently funded across the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors culminating in the requirement for local authorities to use a single local formula for funding early years provision in both sectors.

Some 39,000 providers deliver the free entitlement to nursery education for three and four-year-olds of which just over half are in the private, voluntary and independent sector.

The Government's position on the free entitlement has not had an adverse effect on the market so far. There are now 1.28 million childcare places, more than double the number in 1997, and the market remains stable. Closure rates in the PVI sector are low compared to national small business closure rates.

The provisions in section 8 of the Childcare Act which make local authorities the provider of last resort in the childcare market are designed to safeguard the interests of private, voluntary and independent providers. Our intention is not to undermine the flourishing childcare market, but to ensure that all children, irrespective of their parents' income or family circumstances, can reap the very real benefits of high-quality nursery education.

Petition

Thursday 4 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

WORK AND PENSIONS

Post Office Card Account

The Petition of residents of Chorley and others,

Declares that the Post Office Card Account should be renewed.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to renew the Post Office Card Account as soon as possible.

And the Petitioners remain, *&c.*—*[Presented by Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, Official Report,* 11 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 742 .]

[P000295]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

The Government has now decided that a new contract will be awarded to Post Office Ltd. The contract will run initially from 2010 to March 2015, with the possibility of an extension beyond that.

The Government announced in December 2006 that there would be a successor to the POCA. Based on the legal advice received at the time, the Government put the contract out to tender.

The financial services world is far less certain than it was when the tender process began two years ago. Many people, particularly the most vulnerable in our society, are now more concerned about financial transactions and services in general. That is why we have decided to cancel this process and ensure that POCA remains with the Post Office.

The Post Office is a trusted brand, and it is seen as a safe, secure and reliable provider of services in these turbulent times. And there is no doubt that the POCA plays an important role in maintaining a viable Post Office network. It not only generates a key part of the Post Office's income, but also brings with it vital footfall to individual sub-postmasters. We recognise that many POCA customers will want to maintain their existing routine. The Government's decision will reassure those who feel they need the POCA during this period of uncertainty in the financial services world.

Petition

Monday 8 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Finance (Public Projects)

The Petition of London Global Table (an association of people concerned for Global Justice) and others of like disposition.

Declares that the United Kingdom uses interest-bearing money to fund public capital projects thereby increasing the National Debt; requires a new non-inflationary financial mechanism free from interest; the use of national bank-issued interest-free loans is such a mechanism.

Further declares that in the past such a mechanism (using national bank-issued interest-free or low-interest loans) has been successfully used for public capital projects in Canada, New Zealand, and Guernsey and is believed to be currently in use in Malaysia

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward legislation to enable the Bank of England to issue interest-free loans for public, environmental and clean electricity capital projects, such loans to be repaid and, on repayment, cancelled, thereby halving or more the usual cost in a non-inflationary way.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Norman Baker, Official Report, 11 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 743 .]*

[P000286]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

"The Government is bringing forward measures to increase certainty and incentives for investment in renewable energy technologies. The Energy Act provides powers to introduce banding to the Renewables Obligation to provide more targeted support for newer technologies, and powers to introduce a renewable heat incentive and feed-in tariffs for electricity below 5 MW. These provisions will ensure communities, households and businesses can receive financial reward for the renewable heat and electricity they generate.

In addition, the Pre-Budget Report has recently confirmed that the Government is committed to retaining the Renewables Obligation to provide financial support for large-scale renewable electricity and will extend it to at least 2037. This will ensure that investors can plan with confidence and underpin growing investment in renewable electricity".

Petitions

Thursday 11 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Dorset)

The Petition of people from the Mid Dorset and North Poole Constituency,

Declares the Petitioners' concern that the proposal for the construction of 700 dwellings in Corfe Mullen will lead to the destruction of a beautiful green valley in the green belt, increase traffic on already inadequate roads, put pressures on hospitals and other health services and on schools and endanger the heath lands. The Petitioners further declare that it is not an effective way to tackle the housing needs of local young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to respond to the views of local residents, elected councillors for Corfe Mullen and the Parish Council by removing the proposal for the 700 dwellings from the South West Regional Spatial Strategy.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Annette Brooke, Official Report,* 20 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 132 .]

[P000273]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding her Proposed Changes into the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in relation to housing development in Corfe Mullen.

As the process of producing the South West RSS is bound by regulation and propriety guidance, which seeks to put all interested parties on an even footing, I am unable to discuss the merits of the Proposed Changes or the Panel's report. These propriety matters apply in particular to any comments related to particular localities or development proposals.

The position in respect of the South West RSS is that, following the public consultation period which ended on 24 October 2008, the consultation responses are currently being analysed. In view of the large number of representations received, the RSS will not be published before the end of 2008 as envisaged and so the Government is currently discussing a revised publication date.

The Petition of people living in the Mid Dorset and North Poole Constituency,

Declares the Petitioners' concerns that the proposal to build 2,750 homes in the vicinity of Lytchett Minster village in the green belt will result in one urban sprawl and threaten the loss of individual identity for their villages and communities, increase traffic on already inadequate roads, put pressures on hospitals and other health services and on schools and endanger heath lands. The Petitioners further declare that it is not an effective way to tackle the housing needs of local young people.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to respond to the views of Purbeck District Council supported by Dorset County Council, local town and parish councils and many individual constituents by removing the proposal for the 2,750 homes in the vicinity of Lytchett Minster village from the South West Regional Spatial strategy.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Annette Brooke, Official Report,* 21 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 276 .]

[P000274]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding her Proposed Changes into the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in relation to housing development in the vicinity of Lytchett Minster village.

As the process of producing the South West RSS is bound by regulation and propriety guidance, which seeks to put all interested parties on an even footing, I am unable to discuss the merits of the Proposed Changes or the Panel's report, or take any representations or comments on board at this stage. These propriety matters apply in particular to any comments related to particular localities or development proposals.

The position in respect of the South West RSS is that, following the public consultation period which ended on 24 October 2008, the consultation responses are currently being analysed. In view of the large number of representations received, the RSS will not be published before the end of 2008 as envisaged. The Government is currently discussing a revised publication date.

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Robert J Kimmel, residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that Castle Point is already overdeveloped for the infrastructure that exists and further development should be very carefully controlled and restricted and that the proposed development of 234 Benfleet Road in Castle Point is very much against the community's interests, and offends against material planning considerations including the overdevelopment of the site, an unacceptable imposition on the established street scene, inadequate garden and parking facilities and that it will impose an unacceptable burden on the general infrastructure and public facilities such as dentists and schools. We further record that this decision is the direct responsibility of the individual councillors who should decide this matter, rather than seeking to hide behind their officers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to make Castle Point Borough Councillors aware of this Petition and of the very deeply and widely held view of residents that Councillors should vote against this proposal.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 13 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 644.]

[P000275]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that two planning applications were submitted to Castle Point Borough Council in respect of the above development. She has been advised that the applications were both refused by the Borough Council on 31 October 2008.

Parliament has entrusted Local Planning Authorities with the responsibility for development control in their areas. It is for them, in the first instance, to decide whether or not a proposal should be given planning permission. In these cases, the two applications have been refused.

Planning and Development (Exmoor)

The Petition of residents in the vicinity of Exmoor National Park and others,

Declares that the authorities of Exmoor National Park wish to demolish Blackpits Bungalow, a perfectly habitable three bedroom home, built for local working people, together with the out-buildings, roadside fences, and banks; and further declares that the purchase of the bungalow (for £238,000) and the demolition of the property, do not represent good use of public funds.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to prevent the demolition of Blackpits Bungalow.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Ian Liddell-Grainger, Official Report*, 22 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 415 .]

[P000276]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that the Exmoor National Park Authority is to form a working group to discuss the future of the site. At present no planning application has been submitted for the site, the determination of which is primarily the responsibility of the National Park as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State cannot comment on the merits or otherwise of any application, or prospective application.

The Secretary of State's her information is that the proposed demolition is part of a wider set of proposals being considered by the National Park Authority, which also includes the construction of affordable housing in another, more sustainable, location. She also understands that it is the Authority's intention that the package as a whole will reduce the overall environmental impact on the National Park, and add to the supply of affordable housing, without additional drain on public funds. However, she has no knowledge of the details which will determine whether these intentions are achievable, and it is for the Authority to consider those factors in the first instance.

The Secretary of State may decide to call-in an application for her own determination where she considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but her policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the instant proposal may, at some future date, come within her jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to make further comment on the matter raised in the petition.

Protection of Playing Fields

The Petition of Jo Grey, concerned Canvey Island residents, and others,

Declares that Castle Point Council is wrong to plan to build over 100 houses on Castle View School Playing field, that this is insensitive, inappropriate and will result in more homes built on a green belt, high flood risk site; believes that there is sufficient previously developed, brown land to build any necessary additional homes without selling off valuable school playing fields for that purpose, and that councillors should stand up for residents' interests and consider the impact of their plans on road congestion and safety for all Island residents, and reject the Castle Point Borough Council Core Strategy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to press Castle Point Borough Councillors to speak out and act and vote against the plan to sell off a Canvey Island school playing field for yet more building.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report*, 07 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 248.]

[P000272]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Government understands the residents concerns about the future of playing field space, but it is the Government's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted planning with authority for day-to-day planning control in their areas as they are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

I should also mention that Government is concerned about the continuing loss of playing fields to development, especially where their loss would result in a shortage of playing fields in a local area, whether for schools or for the wider community. Government seeks to ensure that communities retain an adequate supply of playing fields to meet both their current and longer-term needs, in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. Sport England is a statutory consultee for planning applications involving development which would have a detrimental effect on the provision of playing fields. Sport England is consulted on all applications for development which involve playing fields which are, or were in the last five years, in use.

I understand from Castle Point Borough Council that no planning application has yet been made to them in respect of this proposal. When an application has been made, the Council will be required to publicise it in order that the public and other interested parties may make known their views. Before reaching their decision, the Council must take into account: the provisions of the development plan for the area; any relevant views expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and other third parties; and any other relevant material considerations which fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned. They should also be guided by the policies and advice set out in the Department's Planning Policy Guidance Notes, Statements (PPGs and PPSs) and planning circulars.

I understand through discussions with the Council that the site referred to in the Petition is identified within their Core Spatial Strategy for housing purposes. The Council has conducted several consultation exercises in relation to ongoing work that has/is being conducted in relation to this document. The most recent consultation exercise was in respect of the Core Strategy Further Preferred Options Report which concluded on 15 August 2008. There have also been a number of other consultations carried out since February 2006. Therefore, members of the public still have a chance to raise their objections to the proposals.

In the meantime the Secretary of State suggests that the residents raise their concerns directly with Castle Point Borough Council.

Petition

Monday 15 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Traffic Management (Essex)

The Petition of Christopher Rankin, residents of New Park Road Benfleet and others,

Declares that access arrangements for Appleton School currently cause great inconvenience to residents and pose a danger to school children and the wider community since New Park Road is totally unsuitable for large volumes of traffic and commercial vehicles which cause safety concerns for the children who use it and cause unacceptable vibrations, adverse noise and other pollutants reducing the quality of life for residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to change advice given on access to schools to take greater account of the needs of residents, and does urge Castle Point Borough Council and the Highways Authority to design a more appropriate traffic management system to protect the Quality of life of all residents

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 10 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 609 .]

[P000284]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

New Park Road, Benfleet is a local road for which the local highway authority has responsibility. The provision of traffic management measures on such roads is for the authority to consider.

Local authorities have a duty under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to exercise their functions under the Act, so as to ensure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic - including pedestrians.

In so doing, they must have regard to the effect on the amenity of the local area when developing their traffic management policies.

Local authorities are aware, both of their duties in this respect, and of the range of guidance provided by Government Departments to assist them in developing appropriate traffic management solutions.

Petition

Wednesday 17 December 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Violence against women

The Petition of members of the Cheshire Federation of the Women's Institute, declares that violence against women is a cause and consequence of women's inequality and that the Government is not doing enough to prevent violence against women from occurring; and further declares that there seems to be a mentality that abuse of women and girls is a fact of life

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to stand by the UK's commitment to afford women and girls their basic human right to live free from violence, and its threat, by taking steps to eliminate violence against women

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Timpson, Official Report,* 4 November 2008; Vol. 482, c. 227 .]

[P000280]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government takes the issue of violence against women, in all its forms, very seriously. All of us, including the Government, have a responsibility to address violence against women: within our families, within our communities, at our places of work or study and within our society at large. Violence against women perpetuates inequality and the Government does not accept it as a "fact of life".

The Government has developed a number of linked national action plans for domestic violence which include tackling female genital mutilation, forced marriage and crimes committed in the name of honour; sexual assault and rape; prostitution and human trafficking. Each of these areas of work identifies a number of joined-up work streams that are being pursued across Government departments. In recent years, the plans have focused attention and funding on these issues at both a national and local level to ensure that there is comprehensive and co-ordinated delivery.

Key actions taken by this Government include:

A £1 million cross-Government special fund to support rape crisis centres, helping them to stay open and delivering support to victims;

Improved support and access to justice for victims of domestic violence through the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts programme and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences ensuring more successful prosecutions and fewer repeat incidences of domestic violence;

Announcement of measures following a six month Government review into tackling demand for prostitution to make men think twice before paying for sex and ultimately reduce the demand for prostitution and trafficked women;

Implementation of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 giving courts the power to issue Forced Marriage Protection Orders to prevent someone from forcing another person into marriage;

Raising the age at which someone can apply for a marriage visa from 18 to 21 as part of a crackdown on forced marriage;

A UK-wide anti-trafficking policing operation, Operation Pentameter 2 in 2008 which resulted in the successful recovery of 167 victims;

Introduction of legislation, such as the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Domestic Violence and Victims Act 2004, which has improved both the way in which the criminal justice system deals with the crimes and victims' access to justice.

More recently, the Government has announced £1.6 million in funding for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)—the Government wants to see a SARC in every area. Furthermore, we are on course to meet our commitment to ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of this year, introducing a 45-day minimum reflection period for all identified victims and temporary one-year renewable residence permits in certain circumstances: this goes beyond Convention requirements.

The Government is committed to ensure that women and girls are not subject to any form of violence and it values taking a fresh look at work to tackle violence against women through the prism of gender. This is why we will be implementing a cross-Government consultation on violence against women; further details will be available shortly.

Petition

Thursday 18 December 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Learner Drivers (Brighton and Hove)

The Petition of driving instructors and their pupils, local to Brighton and Hove driving test centres,

Declares that the proposed closure of Brighton and Hove driving test centre by the Driving Standards Agency in order to re-locate to Burgess Hill multi-purpose test centre would be damaging, ill conceived and un-workable for the following reasons:

The Driving Standards Agency's Code of Practice on consultations on driving test centres states that: 'In more densely populated areas of the country where the population is equal to or greater than 1, 250 persons per square kilometre the practical test centres should be located so that most customers travel no more than 7 miles to a DTC'. In the Brighton area the population density is 3,023 persons per square kilometre, nearly two and a half times the level needed for centres to be located so that most customers travel less than seven miles. The consultation paper suggests that the distance from Burgess Hill to Brighton is only ten miles. The distance "as the Crow flies" is well over ten miles from Brighton sea·front and by real roads nearly sixteen miles, well over double the Agency's recommended distance.

Burgess Hill offers nowhere near the same complexity of road layouts that Brighton and Hove does, therefore the driving tests carried out there will not support the Government's aim to improve the standard of driver training.

The driving test traffic from around 40 test routes from the Brighton and Hove centres will be combined with traffic from clients living in areas of mid Sussex onto just 12 routes. With the added traffic from pupils practising to familiarise themselves with the area, local traffic congestion will be intolerable and the efficient running of driving test centres highly unlikely. E.g. there is just one crossroads controlled by traffic lights. If all the tests are to assess performance at this point, and if each learner practises the junction three times before taking the test during working hours, then there will be one learner car at this junction approx every 90 seconds.

The environmental impact of the extended travel should be taken into account. E.g. approximately 75 pupils a day will use Burgess Hill instead of Brighton and Hove. They will travel 20 miles extra each time on approximately 5 trips to Burgess Hill to practise and take the test = 93,600 visits per annum = 1,872.00 extra miles per annum. At 139g CO_2 per KM (e.g. Vauxhall Corsa 1.2) this represents almost 419 tonnes of unnecessary CO_2 emissions per annum.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reject the Driving Standards Agency's request to close Brighton Driving Test Centre and Hove Driving Test Centre in order to re-locate to Burgess Hill Multi-purpose Test Centre and insist that at least one driving test centre in the city of Brighton and Hove is retained.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow .]*

[P000294]

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Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 December 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT *(a)* infrastructure and *(b)* systems his (i) Department and (ii) its agencies use. [240410]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department currently has about 140,000 desktops, around 7,000 encrypted laptops, 2,500 servers and 21 mainframes serving its 149 major application systems. The infrastructure falls into three broad categories of services delivered by third party suppliers, desktop (PCs) hosting (mainframe computers and application servers) and network/telephony. The IT systems or applications are linked to two major data centres.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the asset register of his Department's IT infrastructure and systems. [240411]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's IT suppliers provide the IT infrastructure used by the Department and own the assets required to deliver the IT services the Department has specified contractually. Consequently, the Department does not maintain a register of those assets.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average useful economic life of departmental IT infrastructure. [240412]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a large and complex IT infrastructure consisting of 21 mainframes, 2,500 servers and 149 major applications which it renews and refreshes as necessary. It makes no single estimate of useful economic life.

The Department purchases IT services from suppliers on a consumption basis in order to maximize value for money. Its IT suppliers provide IT infrastructure components as part of these services and have contractual obligations to maintain and refresh these components.

Employee Assistance Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 77W, on Employee Assistance Programme, how many requests from staff for services have been received by the Department's Employee Assistance Programme in each category of reason recorded in each year since the programme was established; and if he will make a statement. [241269]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central to the answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1970W.

Incapacity Benefit: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in the South West Bedfordshire constituency in November 2008. [240406]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is for May 2008, when there were 2,850 claimants of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in South West Bedfordshire constituency.

Notes:

1. The figure is rounded to the nearest 10.

2. This figure is published at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date the review of the closure plan for Jobcentre Plus offices will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [240413]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1979W.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Board

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library copies of the agendas, minutes and supporting documents considered by the Olympic Board at its last six meetings. [240441]

Tessa Jowell: I have agreed to provide Parliament with six-monthly progress updates and quarterly financial updates. The next Government Annual Report on the Games will be published in January 2009 and will provide both progress and financial updates.

Summaries of Olympic Board meetings are placed on the London 2012 Organising Committee website

http://www.london2012.com/en/ourvision/Olympic+Board.

Agendas, minutes and papers of the Olympic Board are not publicly available.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what effect the reduction in the number of *(a)* apartments and *(b)* bed spaces has had on the construction costs of the Olympic village. [240323]

Tessa Jowell: At this time, both apartment and bed space numbers have not yet been finalised, with final numbers subject to Olympic Board agreement. It is, therefore, not yet possible to comment on the impact of any potential reduction in accommodation on construction costs.

As we have stated previously, we are seeking to reduce costs by only building what is necessary for the Games. Therefore, apartment numbers have reduced, with the number of athlete bed spaces remaining as required by London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. At the same time we are preserving quality and confident we will meet IOC requirements. We are in discussion with our partners and will set out our plans shortly.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what exclusivity agreements are in force in relation to the Olympic village; and for how long each is to be in force. [240324]

Tessa Jowell: There are a number of exclusivity agreements within the overall Olympic Village deal, the principal one being that between the Olympic Delivery Authority and Lend Lease as developer. The exclusivity agreement officially expires at the end of the year but there is an option to extend to March 2009.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects to publish the KPMG report on Olympic venues. [240439]

Tessa Jowell: As announced after the Olympic Board in November, the KPMG report will be published subject to ensuring that it does not contain any commercial sensitive material. However, we do not yet have a final copy of the report. I am not therefore in a position to confirm the timing of its publication.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost to the public purse will be of the KPMG report into the suitability of the Olympic venues. [240440]

Tessa Jowell: The review by KPMG is not yet concluded with work ongoing on certain elements of the report. I am therefore not yet in a position to confirm what the full costs of the report will be.

Olympic Games 2012: Per Capita Costs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the largest build cost per square foot of the Olympic village is; and how this compares to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors index. [240320]

Tessa Jowell: Commercial negotiations are ongoing regarding the costing of the various elements of the Olympic Village. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to provide build cost information whilst commercially confidential negotiations continue.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Museums and Galleries: Royal Ulster Constabulary

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to make a decision about funding for a museum for the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation. [240507]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland officials are currently considering the finalised business case for a police museum which the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation submitted to them in November 2008. Decisions on funding will await a full analysis of this business case.

SCOTLAND

Air Passenger Duty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effects of the increase in air passenger duty on the levels of air passenger traffic between the Highlands and islands of Scotland and the rest of the world; whether his Department has performed an economic impact assessment of the amended air passenger duty rate; and if he will make a statement. [240678]

Ann McKechin: Decisions on taxes are a matter for the Chancellor. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by my hon. Friend, the Exchequer Secretary, to question number 240702.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions, on what dates, he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the contents of the Alcoholic Liquor Duties (Surcharges) and Tobacco Products Duty Order 2008 (S.I. 2008, No. 3026) and the assessment that no impact on the private or voluntary sectors was foreseen. [240686]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with the Chancellor on a range of issues.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Development Aid: Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK overseas development aid was *(a)* committed and *(b)* disbursed (i) in total and (ii) under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee creditor reporting system (A) agricultural codes (31110 to 31195), (B) basic nutrition (12240), (C) food aid/food security (52010) and (D) emergency food aid (72040) codes in 2007. [241201]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) total bilateral programme in 2007-08 was £2,962 million. Details on the amount of DFID's bilateral expenditure provided in support of each sector in 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

DFID bilateral expenditure, 2007-08

	Sector	*£000*
12240	Basic Nutrition, Health	9,486
31110	Agriculture Policy and Administrative Management	22,739
31120	Agricultural Development	4,755
31130	Agricultural Land Resources	19,996
31163	Livestock: Agriculture	3,108
52010	Food Aid and Food Security Programmes	35,830
72040	Emergency Food Aid	11,591

The data in the table do not include support to these sectors delivered through General Budget Support and core contributions to multilateral organisations, civil society organisations and general humanitarian funds, such as the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund.

Kenya: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he has given to Kenya to assist the resettlement of individuals displaced internally in that country since the elections in 2007. [241328]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not committing funds directly to the resettlement of internally displaced people in Kenya.

Resettlement is complex and should be handled with care, in line with international guidelines. To address the problems of those internally displaced and prevent future dislocations, the underlying issues of economic and ethnic inequality, land distribution and the culture of impunity in relation to political violence need to be tackled.

DFID is working with the international community and the Government of Kenya to address these underlying issues. This includes the implementation of key activities agreed in the Peace Accord brokered by Kofi Annan, to which DFID is the main donor. DFID has also provided £1.5 million to date in support of the national land reform programme, including the development of a new land policy. In addition, DFID committed £2.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Kenya for those displaced by the crisis.

HEALTH

Dairy Products: Imports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has taken steps to assess the level of contamination by the industrial chemical melamine in dairy exports from China to the UK. [240685]

Dawn Primarolo: The import of milk and milk products from China is prohibited under Commission Decision 2007/275/EC of 17 April 2007 concerning lists of animals and products to be subject to controls at border inspection posts under Council Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC.

In response to the contamination of milk with melamine the European Commission introduced additional measures restricting the import of products from China containing milk or milk products. These measures require any product containing more than 2.5 mg/kg melamine to be removed from the market and destroyed. Testing by Port Health Authorities and local authorities has found a few products, containing more than 2.5 mg/kg melamine, which, although not considered to be a risk to public health, have been destroyed.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many problematic drugs users were estimated to be residing in London in the last year for which figures are available. [240585]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated number of problem drug users[1] in the London government office region, aged between 15-64, is 74,822. This figure for the latest period available 2006-07.

[1] Problem drug use in this context refers to use of opiates and/or crack cocaine, including those who inject either of these drugs. It does not include the of cocaine in powder from, amphetamine, ecstasy or cannabis, or injecting by people who do not use opiates or cocaine.

Food: Safety

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority spent per head of population on taking and analysing samples for food standards purposes in the last 12 months. [240401]

Dawn Primarolo: The decision on how much each local authority spends on taking and analysing samples for food standards purposes is decided by each local authority in accordance with the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice issued in June 2008.

Each authority is required to publish a food sampling policy and make it available to businesses and consumers. The policy sets out the authority's general approach to food sampling and its approach in specific situations such as process monitoring, inspections, complaints, special investigations and national, regional and local co-ordinated programmes.

NHS: Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff within each primary care trust in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [240749]

Ann Keen: Tables have been placed in the Library showing the amount spent by each primary care trust in England on salaries and wages for:

total managers and senior managers;

total nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff; and

total administrative and clerical staff

in the years 2006-07 to 2007-08.

Overseas Residence: Australia

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual savings accruing to his Department as a result of expatriates resident in Australia meeting the cost of their healthcare. [240681]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold data on the cost of health care for United Kingdom expatriates resident in Australia. The UK does not fund the healthcare costs of British citizens resident in non-European countries and therefore does not consider these to be cost savings. It is the responsibility of individuals to make their own healthcare arrangements when they move to Australia.

TRANSPORT

Air Routes

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will designate the air route from London Gatwick to Inverness under Public Service Obligation protection; and if he will make a statement; [240679]

(2) if he will designate all air service to peripheral areas of the United Kingdom from London Heathrow and London Gatwick which do not have a seven hour day return trip capability by surface transport under Public Service Obligation protection; and if he will make a statement. [240680]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In December 2005, the Department for Transport published guidance on the circumstances under which it would consider imposing a Public Service Obligation (PSO) to protect domestic air routes to London airports. A copy is available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/aviation/psoguidance

Under the guidance, it is for local bodies such as devolved administrations, regional development agencies or local authorities to make the case for a PSO to the Department. No such applications have been received since the guidance was published.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been provided to each local authority to run the national concessionary bus fares scheme in 2008-09; and what estimate his Department has made of the expenditure which will be incurred by each authority on the scheme in that year. [240408]

Paul Clark: The additional funding provided to each Travel Concession Authority (TCA) to run their schemes following the introduction of the England-wide concession on 1 April is published in the Special Grant Report (No. 129). A copy is in the Library of the House. In total, £212 million of additional funding is available to TCAs in England in 2008-09. The special grant allocation is based on generous assumptions around fares, pass take-up, extra journeys and additional costs, and the distribution of the grant was consulted on in detail. This grant is in addition to the bulk of the funding for statutory concessionary travel which remains within the overall local Government formula grant settlement.

The Government are providing around £1 billion each year to support the England-wide concession and is confident this is sufficient in total to meet the cost to TCAs. We will continue to monitor the impact of England-wide statutory concessionary travel but final data on expenditure for 2008-09 is unlikely to be available before autumn 2009.

Driving Offences

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the number of cars that are not *(a)* insured and *(b)* taxed. [240434]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold estimates of the number of cars that are not insured or taxed.

However, the Department's latest estimates of vehicle excise duty evasion suggest that there were around 589,000 unlicensed vehicles in Great Britain in 2007.

In addition, the latest estimate of uninsured driving, based on a 2005 comparison of the DVLA vehicle register and the motor insurance database, suggests that about 2.1 million licensed vehicles are being driven by uninsured drivers.

Measures have already been introduced to tackle uninsured driving including police powers to seize vehicles used on the road uninsured and improved police access to information contained in the insurance industry's database. The Road Safety Act 2006 introduced a new offence of being a registered keeper for which there is no valid motor insurance. Further regulations are required to bring in the provisions into force and the detail of this scheme for continuous insurance enforcement will be subject to consultation later this year.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of uninsured drivers who renewed their car tax *(a)* online, *(b)* by telephone and *(c)* in person in the last 12 months; [240432]

(2) what procedures are in place to ensure that individuals who renew their car tax disc *(a)* online, *(b)* by telephone and *(c)* in person have valid car insurance. [240431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such estimate has been made, as valid insurance must be in place before a vehicle licence can be issued.

A vehicle licence cannot be issued unless valid insurance is in place.

When a vehicle is licensed in person at the Post Office or a DVLA local office, a paper certificate of insurance must be produced. This will be scrutinised to ensure that the person taking out the licence, the registered keeper, is covered by the insurance policy.

When a licensing application is made online or over the telephone, the same check is made electronically via the motor insurance database before the application is processed.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce the *(a)* timings and *(b)* business case for the additional 182 vehicles for Northern Rail. [240923]

Paul Clark: The updates to the Department of Transport's Rolling Stock Plan published in July 2008 stated that the indicative rolling stock numbers will only be substituted by different numbers when the Department contracts with the relevant train operator. In the case of Northern Rail this is expected to be in 2010.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in discussions on the preparation and delivery of additional rolling stock vehicles to Northern Rail. [241075]

Paul Clark: Discussions with Northern Rail are at an early stage. Our current view is that they should conclude during 2010, although this is clearly subject to the progress of the commercial negotiations between the parties.

Roads: Accidents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other outcomes there were in road traffic accidents reported to his Department in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in each month in each of the last five years. [240691]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for each month in Cornwall and England, for each of the last five years is given as follows:

Cornwall

Number of casualties

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2003													
Killed	2	3	3	3	4	0	1	5	2	2	3	2	30
Serious	41	23	29	27	29	21	26	29	20	27	19	15	306
Slight	189	171	164	162	195	237	269	250	257	217	222	177	2,510
Total	232	197	196	192	228	258	296	284	279	246	244	194	2,846
2004													
Killed	1	2	7	3	3	8	5	1	3	5	2	4	44
Serious	6	11	11	25	21	14	21	28	23	22	18	24	224
Slight	142	206	158	179	224	212	248	261	221	247	179	193	2,470
Total	149	219	176	207	248	234	274	290	247	274	199	221	2,738
2005													
Killed	5	4	3	3	2	4	5	5	3	3	6	2	45
Serious	18	19	18	27	19	24	24	23	9	12	9	14	216
Slight	176	164	209	180	222	238	302	288	243	223	218	176	2,639
Total	199	187	230	210	243	266	331	316	255	238	233	192	2,900
2006													
Killed	2	4	6	1	6	6	5	6	0	4	3	7	50
Serious	14	9	11	16	25	11	26	15	30	20	19	21	217
Slight	147	212	194	161	210	207	255	273	197	201	209	157	2,423
Total	163	225	211	178	241	224	286	294	227	225	231	185	2,690
2007													
Killed	0	2	1	4	1	6	1	4	3	2	3	1	28
Serious	8	24	15	20	29	21	26	26	19	20	13	20	241
Slight	158	156	177	161	202	248	284	244	202	177	162	210	2,381
Total	166	182	193	185	232	275	311	274	224	199	178	231	2,650

England

Number of casualties

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2003													
Killed	236	231	260	212	229	263	259	321	233	213	278	269	3,004
Serious	2,339	2,270	2,374	2,288	2,449	2,557	2,518	2,527	2,527	2,674	2,485	2,284	29,292
Slight	18,386	16,894	17,346	17,379	19,071	18,857	19,678	18,298	19,665	20,811	20,451	18,767	225,603
Total	20,961	19,395	19,980	19,879	21,749	21,677	22,455	21,146	22,425	23,698	23,214	21,320	257,899
2004													
Killed	205	194	194	212	256	231	207	241	234	217	251	272	2,714
Serious	2,147	2,038	2,006	2,198	2,529	2,413	2,214	2,324	2,322	2,440	2,188	2,238	27,057
Slight	18,324	15,740	17,666	17,079	18,184	18,205	17,876	18,356	18,742	20,219	19,317	19,283	218,991
Total	20,676	17,972	19,866	19,489	20,969	20,849	20,297	20,921	21,298	22,876	21,756	21,793	248,762

England

Number of casualties

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2005													
Killed	224	199	221	185	214	225	218	230	247	244	259	269	2,735
Serious	1,891	1,767	1,834	1,927	2,232	2,223	2,285	2,244	2,096	2,307	2,300	2,104	25,210
Slight	17,415	15,406	15,987	16,924	18,167	17,925	18,260	17,559	17,687	18,690	19,938	18,581	212,539
Total	19,530	17,372	18,042	19,036	20,613	20,373	20,763	20,033	20,030	21,241	22,497	20,954	240,484
2006													
Killed	200	223	173	213	198	232	223	240	243	264	229	257	2,695
Serious	1,945	1,755	1,826	1,851	2,097	2,278	2,337	2,056	2,126	2,172	2,269	2,144	24,856
Slight	15,892	14,791	15,783	14,926	17,096	16,578	17,843	16,505	17,742	18,228	18,358	17,284	201,026
Total	18,037	16,769	17,782	16,990	19,391	19,088	20,403	18,801	20,111	20,664	20,856	19,685	228,577
2007													
Killed	209	168	205	219	218	184	202	226	220	218	220	213	2,502
Serious	2,040	1,634	1,934	2,061	1,975	2,084	2,186	2,122	2,106	2,062	2,159	1,855	24,218
Slight	16,213	13,988	15,919	14,718	16,937	16,568	17,015	15,991	16,097	16,328	17,323	15,647	192,744
Total	18,462	15,790	18,058	16,998	19,130	18,836	19,403	18,339	18,423	18,608	19,702	17,715	219,464

Scanners

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many body scanners his Department operates in *(a)* airports, *(b)* ports and *(c)* railway stations; and where each is located. [241784]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has been involved in trials of body scanner technology at Luton and Heathrow airports, and at Paddington railway station, as part of joint industry and Government effort to further improve the security of the travelling public in the UK. Currently there are no body scanners deployed for transport security purposes at airports, ports and railway stations.

Shipping: Noise

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the shipping industry on reducing incidental noise from commercial shipping operations in the marine environment; and if he will make a statement; [240967]

(2) what plans his Department has to contribute to the work of the International Marine Organisation's correspondence group on drafting non-mandatory guidelines on ship noise reduction; and if he will make a statement. [240968]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Shipping is a global industry and the regulation of international shipping is best taken forward in the forum of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) met in October and, following discussion of a submission from the USA, MEPC agreed a new work programme item aimed at minimising the introduction of incidental noise from ships into the marine environment.

Consequently, at future sessions of MEPC there will be an agenda item entitled 'Noise from commercial shipping and its adverse impacts on marine life'. This Department and its Maritime and Coastguard Agency will take part in the work under this agenda item, including the IMO correspondence group which is being coordinated by the USA.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of speed cameras deliberately damaged or destroyed in Essex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241334]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not made any such estimate. This information may be held by Essex police who take such criminal behaviour seriously and seek to prosecute anyone caught committing such acts.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic impact of the revised rates of air passenger duty on air travel *(a)* to, *(b)* from and *(c)* within the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [240702]

Angela Eagle: The existing scope of, and exemptions from, air passenger duty will remain in place, including the exemption for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. There will be no economic impact of the revised rates of air passenger duty on the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Economic and Monetary Union

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were engaged in preparatory work for the recent assessment of the UK's performance against the five economic tests for joining the euro. [240964]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that,

> "the Government do not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget".

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

Exchange Rates

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on sterling of the scale of bank deposits and other short-term instruments held by non-residents. [240262]

Ian Pearson: Exchange rates are determined by a range of factors. The Government's objective is for a stable and competitive exchange rate in the medium term, consistent with meeting the inflation target.

Income Tax

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of income tax receipts were paid by the wealthiest *(a)* one per cent., *(b)* five per cent., *(c)* 10 per cent., *(d)* 25 per cent. and *(e)* 50 per cent. of the population in the most recent year for which figures are available. [241144]

Mr. Timms: The information can be found in Table 2.4 "Shares of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://wvw.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Insurance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to establish a means-tested hardship fund for policyholders following the near-collapse of Equitable Life. [241143]

Ian Pearson: As my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, told this House on 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 38, there will be a statement on Equitable Life before the House rises at Christmas.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 16 October 2008, regarding a constituent, ref: 2/01966/2008. [240354]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Secretary will respond to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter dated 24 September 2008 and subsequent correspondence from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr D. Randall. [240682]

Ian Pearson: I have today replied to the hon. Member.

Public Private Partnerships

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions have been made on the net present value of public-private partnership projects for the purposes of preparing the pre-Budget report for 2008. [241355]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury uses departmental returns as the basis for its statistics on public-private partnerships published at each pre-Budget and Budget report. These are in turn based on HM Treasury's Green Book, which can be found on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_index.htm

and which sets out guidance for the calculation of net present value.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions are made by his Department when estimating the effects of inflation on future public-private partnership costs. [241356]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury uses departmental returns as the basis for its statistics on public-private partnerships published at each pre-Budget and Budget report.

Departments are required to factor the inflation assumptions set out in their PPP contracts into their estimates of future unitary charge payments.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discount rate of capital is used when determining the net present value of public-private partnership projects; and what risk premium is included in that rate. [241357]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's Green Book, which can be found on the Treasury's website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_index.htm

sets out guidance for the calculation of net present value.

VAT

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to change the designation for VAT purposes of products designed to protect children from the sun; and if he will make a statement. [240290]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my predecessor gave him on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2[illegible]7W.

VAT: Clothing

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will meet with representatives of the School Wear Association in order to discuss VAT on school uniforms; [240447]

(2) if he will make it his policy to change the definition for VAT purposes of children's clothing from clothing to fit an average-sized 13 year old and smaller to that which fits an average-sized 15 year old and smaller; and if he will make a statement. [240449]

Mr. Timms: Treasury officials, in the first instance, would be happy to meet the representatives of the School Wear Association to discuss VAT.

Under the VAT agreements with our European partners, signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to extend the present zero-rating for children's clothing to clothing designed for children older than 13.

VAT: Financial Services

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the effect of the changes in value added tax announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 on the financial services sector. [240444]

Mr. Timms: The reduction in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent. to 15 per cent. between 1 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 will benefit the financial services sector because it will incur less irrecoverable VAT (in respect of its exempt supplies).

There may be compliance costs for those parts of the financial services sector making taxable supplies. The Impact Assessment can be found on the HM Treasury website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_vat_1845.pdf

PRIME MINISTER

Damian Green

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he authorised under the terms of the Wilson Doctrine the interception of telephone or other electronic communications of the hon. Member for Ashford *(a)* before and *(b)* after his recent arrest; [240503]

(2) whether *(a)* listening devices and *(b)* other forms of surveillance technology have been placed in the homes or offices of an hon. Member by *(a)* the police and *(b)* the intelligence and security services in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [240785]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith) during her statement on 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 143.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Disabled: Carers' Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to paragraph 3.11 of the Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities report, how much of the £150 million funding for breaks for carers of disabled children will be provided by the Government Equalities Office over each of the next two years. [240813]

Maria Eagle: The £150 million fund will be provided entirely by the Department of Health and will increase the support available for all carers, not just those that care for disabled children.

Females: Alternatives to Imprisonment

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on alternatives to imprisonment for women. [240282]

Maria Eagle: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on this matter in my capacity as Ministerial Champion for Women in the Criminal Justice System and through the inter-ministerial group on reducing re-offending and the ministerial sub-group on Corston. The Government are fully committed to providing appropriate alternatives to custody for women who are not violent or dangerous, in line with recommendations set out in Baroness Corston's review of women with particular vulnerabilities in the criminal justice system. A progress report one year on from the Government's response to Baroness Corston's review will be published later this month and will outline progress and future plans on this important issue.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: Low Incomes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from each regional development agency project budget for 2008-09 was reallocated to the Homebuy Direct scheme. [241327]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1271-272W.

Housing: Overcrowding

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of households of each *(a)* type of tenure, *(b)* size, *(c)* income level and *(d)* ethnicity in each region in England are estimated to be overcrowded. [240882]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following estimates of the number of overcrowded households are based on the Bedroom Standard definition of overcrowding and are derived from the Survey of English Housing.

(a) Estimates of the number and percentage of overcrowded households by tenure for each region in England are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Overcrowded[1] households by region and tenure, England, 2004-05 to 2006-07[2]

	Tenure (thousand households)				Percentage			
Government office region	*Owner occupiers*	*Social renters*	*Private renters*	*All tenures*	*Owner occupiers*	*Social renters*	*Private renters*	*All tenures*
North East	7	9	3	19	0.9	3.4	3.0	1.7
North West	33	19	12	64	1.6	3.6	4.5	2.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	19	11	7	37	1.3	2.8	3.1	1.8
North	59	40	22	120	1.4	3.3	3.7	2.0
East Midlands	11	13	6	29	0.8	4.1	3.4	1.6
West Midlands	29	21	10	61	1.9	4.5	4.9	2.8
Midlands	40	34	16	SO	1.4	4.4	4.2	2.3
East	19	15	8	42	1.1	4.1	3.3	1.8
London	47	98	59	203	2.7	12.2	10.5	6.6
South East	23	31	12	66	0.9	6.6	2.8	2.0
Southwest	12	12	9	33	0.8	4.2	3.0	1.5
South	100	156	88	344	1.4	8.1	5.8	3.2
England	200	229	125	554	1.4	5.9	5.1	2.7

[1] Overcrowded i.e. one or more bedrooms below the "bedroom standard".
[2] Sample sizes are too small to give robust annual figures. A three-year average is therefore provided.
Source: Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing.

(b) Estimates of the number and percentage of overcrowded households by household size for each region in England are given in Table 2.

Overcrowded[1] households by region and by household size, England, 2004-05 to 2006-07[2]

	Number of persons in household (thousand overcrowded households)				Number of persons in household (percentage)			
Government office region	*1 or 2*	*3 or 4*	*5 or more*	*All households*	*1 or 2*	*3 or 4*	*5 or more*	*All households*
North East	2	5	12	19	0.2	1.4	22.5	1.7
North West	2	24	38	64	0.1	2.8	20.4	2.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	11	25	37	0.1	1.8	18.5	1.8
North	6	39	75	120	0.1	2.2	20.0	2.0
East Midlands	3	8	19	29	0.2	1.5	17.2	1.6
West Midlands	2	16	43	61	0.2	2.5	24.7	2.8
Midlands	5	23	62	90	0.2	2.1	21.8	2.3
East	3	17		22	42	0.2	2.5	15.2
London	30	92	82	203	1.6	10.1	32.0	6.6
South East	5	30	31	66	0.2	3.1	14.3	2.0
South West	3	15	15	33	0.2	2.6	12.6	1.5
South	41	153	149	344	0.6	4.9	20.3	3.2
England	52	216	286	554	0.4	3.6	20.5	2.7

[1] Overcrowded i.e. one or more bedrooms below the "bedroom standard".
[2] Sample sizes are too small to give robust annual figures. A three-year average is therefore provided.
Source: Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing.

(c) Estimates of the number and percentage of overcrowded households by income level for each region in England are given in Table 3.

Table 3: Overcrowded[1] households by region and income level[2], England, 2004-05 to 2006-07[3]

	Joint weekly income HRP and partner (thousand overcrowded households)				Joint weekly income HRP and partner (percentage)			
Government office region	*Under £200*	*£200, under £500*	*£500 or more*	*Total*	*Under £200*	*£200, under £500*	*£500 or more*	*Total*
North East	3	11	3	17	1.3	3.0	0.8	1.8
North West	14	27	8	49	2.5	3.0	0.9	2.1

Table 3: Overcrowded[1] households by region and income level[2], England, 2004-05 to 2006-07[3]

	Joint weekly income HRP and partner (thousand overcrowded households)				*Joint weekly income HRP and partner (percentage)*			
Government office region	*Under £200*	*£200, under £500*	*£500 or more*	*Total*	*Under £200*	*£200, under £500*	*£500 or more*	*Total*
Yorkshire and the Humber	9	16	5	30	2.2	2.3	0.7	1.7
North	26	53	16	96	2.2	2.7	0.8	1.9
East Midlands	6	7	7	20	2.1	1.3	1.2	1.4
West Midlands	11	25	12	48	2.4	3.6	1.6	2.5
Midlands	17	32	19	68	2.3	2.6	1.4	2.0
East	7	15	13	35	2.0	2.3	1.3	1.8
London	62	57	42	160	9.7	7.8	3.7	6.4
South East	12	30	18	60	2.4	3.4	1.2	2.1
South West	5	13	10	28	1.5	2.0	1.2	1.5
South	86	115	82	283	4.7	3.9	1.8	3.1
England	130	200	117	446	3.4	3.3	1.5	2.5

[1] Overcrowded i.e. one or more bedrooms below the "bedroom standard".
[2] Households with unknown incomes are excluded from these estimates.
[3] Sample sizes are too small to give robust annual figures. A three-year average is therefore provided.
Source: Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing.

(d) Estimates of the number and percentage of overcrowded households by ethnicity by broad region in England are given in Table 4. Due to very small sample sizes for overcrowded ethnic minority households in some regions it is not possible to provide estimates for individual regions.

Table 4: Overcrowded[1] households by ethnicity of household reference person, England, 2004-05 to 2006-07[2]

		White (overcrowded)		*Ethnic minority (overcrowded)*	
Region	*Tenure*	*Thousand households*	*Percentage*	*Thousand households*	*Percentage*
London	Owner occupiers	27	1.5	27	7.0
	Social renters	63	7.4	63	18.9
	Private renters	32	7.3	32	17.0
	All	122	3.7	122	13.4
Rest of England	Owner occupiers	110	0.9	43	7.7
	Social renters	116	4.0	16	8.8
	Private renters	45	2.7	21	9.4
	All	271	1.6	80	8.3
England	Owner occupiers	129	1.0	70	7.4
	Social renters	151	4.4	78	15.4
	Private renters	72	3.5	53	12.8
	All	352	1.9	202	10.8

[1] Overcrowded is one or more bedrooms below the "bedroom standard".
[2] Sample sizes are too small to give robust annual figures. A three-year average is therefore provided.
Source: Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing.

Mortgages

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median monthly mortgage payments were (a) for all households and (b) for households at each level of disposable income in (i) England and (ii) each region in England in each of the last five years.
[240884]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the mean monthly mortgage payment for all households taking out a new mortgage for house purchase during the year, in (i) England and (ii) each region in England in each of the last five years are given in the following table.

Estimates for median monthly mortgage payments and data for households at each level of disposable income are not available.

Estimated mean monthly mortgage payments for all households taking out a new mortgage for house purchase during the year

£ per month

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	370	466	535	594	687
North West	420	525	597	659	759
Yorkshire and the Humber	408	509	587	652	744
East Midlands	457	561	629	672	763
West Midlands	472	577	646	715	798
East	603	712	789	855	981
London	832	1,022	1,134	1,251	1,486
South East	693	811	895	981	1,128
South West	551	645	727	806	921
England	563	684	773	851	981

Note:
Assumes repayment mortgage over 25 years.
Sources:
Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders

Ordnance Survey

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions have taken place between Ordnance Survey and Google on the use of Ordnance Survey licence data on Google maps; and if she will make a statement. [240501]

Mr. Iain Wright: In recent weeks Ordnance Survey has held a number of discussions with Google™ UK, including a face to face meeting with a representative of the company, to discuss the terms and conditions under which users of the Google Maps UK applications programming interface (API) may overlay and display their own and third party intellectual property onto the API.

Ordnance Survey is concerned that these terms and conditions require a user to grant Google a

> "perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, and non-exclusive licence to reproduce, adapt, modify, translate, publicly perform, publicly display and distribute Your Content through the Service and as search results through Google Services".

These terms and conditions grant Google these rights over any data or information posted onto the API by a user, including the users' own intellectual property and the intellectual property of any third party whose information they use. This includes any Crown copyright information which a user posts onto the Google Maps API. This grant of rights to Google goes beyond the terms of the user's licence with Ordnance Survey.

As a result of Ordnance Survey's representations, Google has changed the terms and conditions on two occasions within the past month. However each revised version retains the particular clause of concern. Ordnance Survey continues to work with Google to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Rents

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median monthly expenditure on private rent after deduction of housing benefit was of (i) all private rented households and (ii) private rented households at each level of disposable income (A) in England and (B) in each region in England. [240881]

Mr. Iain Wright: The mean and median monthly expenditure on private rents (after deduction of housing benefit) by private renting households is set out in Table 1 for each Government office region and for England. The figures represent an average over the three-year period 2004-05 to 2006-07 and are derived from the Survey of English Housing. Figures based on a period of less than three years would not be sufficiently reliable.

Table 1: Private rents after deduction of housing benefit by region, 2004-05 to 2006-07

		£ per month
Government office region	*Mean*	*Median*
North East	217	216
North West	250	228
Yorkshire and The Humber	237	233
East Midlands	287	297
West Midlands	277	275
Eastern	390	399
London	603	546
South East	409	394
South West	335	309
England	386	325

Table 2 shows the mean and median monthly rents (after deduction of housing benefit) disaggregated by the gross weekly income accruing to the main householder and partner (if any): below £200 per week; £200 to below £500 per week; and £500 per week or more. The figures represent an average over the three-year period 2004-05 to 2006-07 and are derived from the Survey of English Housing. Figures based on a period of less than three years would not be sufficiently reliable.

Table 2: Private rents after deduction of housing benefit by income group and by region, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Gross weekly income			*Gross weekly income*		
	<£200	*£200-£499*	*£500+*	*<£200*	*£200-£499*	*£500+*
Government office region	*Mean monthly rent (after housing benefit)*			*Median monthly rent (after housing benefit)*		
North East	110	235	360	38	233	364
North West	131	280	408	69	286	410
Yorkshire and The Humber	124	213	411	65	235	415
East Midlands	144	297	410	97	348	442
West Midlands	149	299	443	98	327	433
Eastern	156	355	547	56	379	550
London	221	444	861	49	387	805
South East	186	349	559	65	344	550
South West	151	296	480	50	299	498
England	159	323	596	61	312	550

The rental figures that were included in the derivation of the figures in Tables 1 and 2 included a number of "zero" rents. These cases arose because the rent for the accommodation was fully covered by the amount of housing benefit received—so the rental expenditure net of housing benefit was zero.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Overseas Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Australian nationals were engaged in full-time study at UK universities at the latest date for which figures are available. [240852]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006/07 academic year there were 1,040 Australian domiciled students enrolled on full-time courses at UK Higher Education Institutions. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Overseas Trade: Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and Australia was in each of the last five years. [240850]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following table

				£ million
	UK exports of goods to Australia	*UK exports of services to Australia*	*UK imports of goods from Australia*	*UK imports of services from Australia*
2003	2289	2023	1789	1476
2004	2455	2297	1868	1391
2005	2580	2713	2100	1869
2006	2488	2778	2107	1809
2007	2610	3205	2241	1780

Source:
UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2008 edition

Trade: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the monetary value of trade between the UK and the Isle of Man in each of the last three years. [240874]

Mr. Thomas: For the purposes of the Overseas Trade Statistics, 'UK' is defined as Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the UK part of the continental shelf. Therefore the Overseas Trade Statistics do not cover trade in goods between these places.

Consistent estimates of trade in services are not available for all three years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

		£ million
	UK exports of services to the Isle of Man	*UK imports of services from the Isle of Man*
2006	282	40
2007	271	65

JUSTICE

Domestic Violence: Victims

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for the offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [241076]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, from 2005 to 2007, the latest available, are given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, England and Wales, 2005-07[1,2]

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
	Prosecuted	*Guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Guilty*	*Prosecuted*	*Guilty*
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	2	—	3	2	9	6

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Young Offender Institutions: Religion

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of inmates at Feltham A and Feltham B young offender institution *(a)* declared a religious belief, broken down by belief and *(b)* declared a different religion, broken down by religion, in the last nine months. [240435]

Mr. Hanson: The percentages of declared religious belief as at 5 December 2008 was as follows:

	Percentage
Muslim	30.9
Church of England	25.7
Roman Catholic	17.4
No faith	17.2
Other Christians	5.0
Other faiths	3.8

There have been 33 changes in faith over the last nine months as follows:

	Changes
Christian to Muslim	12
No Faith to Muslim	6
No Faith to Christian	3
Hindu to Sikh	1
Muslim to Christian	3
Within Christian Groups	8

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Dartmoor Community College

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward the timetable for the rebuilding of Dartmoor Community College, presently scheduled for 2013; and if he will make a statement. [240317]

Jim Knight: Following a public consultation on the management of Waves 7-15 of BSF—the Building Schools for the Future programme—in the summer, I announced in September our aim to start all local authorities into BSF as soon as is practicable, with an initial priority project covering four to five schools. All local authorities were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) on this basis and Devon was active in consulting Partnerships for Schools prior to submitting its EoI. We are now working with Partnerships for Schools to prioritise expressions of interest in line with our published guidance, and I aim to announce the revised national programme early next year.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Telephone Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken to respond to calls from members of the public to the education maintenance allowance helpline was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [240292]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Castle Point with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Pupil Exclusions: HIV Infection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been excluded from school for being HIV positive in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [240344]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pupils can only be excluded in response to breaches of school behaviour policy. No pupils should be excluded for being HIV positive.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average funding per pupil was for maintained *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [240641]

Jim Knight: The per pupil revenue funding figures as an England average for 2008-09 are shown in the following table. In 2008-09 the majority of funding is distributed via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The following figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are provided in real and cash terms:

2008-09	*DSG plus grants (3 to 19-year-olds) (£)*
Cash	4,690
Real	4,550

The latest period for which a primary/secondary split is available is 2005-06, these are provided in the following table. Prior to the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07, the Education Formula Spending (EFS) was used to allocate funding. Notional amounts for primary and secondary pupils were allocated in the EFS.

The figures for 2005-06 are not comparable to 2008-09 because the introduction of the DSG fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The Education Formula Spending (EFS) formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for 2005-06 are shown in the following table and are taken from the EFS. The figures are provided on real and cash terms.

£

2005-06	*Primary pupils (3 to 10-year-olds)*	*Secondary pupils (11 to 15-year-olds)*
Cash	3,860	4,740
Real	4,080	5,020

Schools: Capital Investment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities will receive extra funding in each of the next two years for school capital projects as a result of the pre-budget report announcement. [240596]

Jim Knight: Local authorities have been invited to bid to bring forward school capital allocations from 2010-11 to 2009-10. Bids are due to be received before Christmas, and the Department aims to confirm allocations to authorities in January. This is not extra funding, but the bringing forward of funding from 2010-11 into 2009-10.

The allocation of funding to individual schools will be determined at local level in accordance with priorities set out in asset management plans. The Department does not maintain a central record of these.

Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools have had *(a)* 1,500 or more and *(b)* 2,000 or more pupils in each of the last 10 years. [240642]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

State-funded secondary schools[1]: Number of schools and pupils by size of school[2]—position as at January each year 1997 to 2008—England

	Total number of schools	*Number of schools with 1,000 to 1,499 pupils*	*Number of pupils in schools with 1,000 to 1,499 pupils*	*Number of schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of pupils in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils*	*Number of schools with over 2,000 pupils*	*Number of pupils in schools with 2,000 and over pupils*
1997	3,584	1,019	1,215,690	132	218,010	6	12,650
1998	3,582	1,028	1,230,220	146	241,110	6	12,670
1999	3,575	1,084	1,293,450	169	278,210	6	12,790
2000	3,565	1,149	1,370,020	188	311,740	7	14,900
2001	3,496	1,202	1,448,720	215	358,840	8	17,120
2002	3,471	1,236	1,491,840	221	377,980	13	27,990
2003	3,454	1,259	1,522,740	257	427,470	14	30,260
2004	3,435	1,291	1,569,260	251	418,520	21	44,610
2005	3,416	1,300	1,575,830	262	436,920	20	43,240
2006	3,405	1,297	1,574,770	260	435,140	21	45,090
2007	3,399	1,272	1,540,980	267	445,980	22	47,540
2008	3,383	1,229	1,488,770	263	439,520	25	53,600

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Supply Teachers: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary for supply teachers in maintained schools was in the latest period for which figures are available. [240609]

Jim Knight: The Database of Teacher Records is the usual source for such information, but my Department's statisticians advise that the coverage for supply teaching is incomplete and therefore any estimate provided would not be reliable.

Teachers: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of teachers who qualified in each year since 1997 are known to be teaching in maintained schools; [240597]

(2) how many teachers who have qualified since 1997 are no longer in the profession; [240640]

(3) how many teachers under the age of 60 have left the profession since 1997. [240643]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the headcount number of teachers who attained qualified teacher status (QTS) in each year from 1997 to 2006 who were recorded in full or part-time regular service in the local authority maintained sector in March 2007, the latest year available.

Number and percentage of teachers gaining qualified teacher status in full and part-time regular service by year of qualification, 1997 to 2006, coverage: England and Wales[1]

Year of attaining QTS	*Total in maintained sector service March 2007*	*Percentage in service[2]*
1997	16,400	57.5
1998	16,000	59.1
1999	17,100	62.9
2000	15,900	64.4
2001	17,300	66.6
2002	20,000	69.5
2003	23,100	70.2
2004	25,900	71.9
2005[3]	27,100	72.7
2006[3]	25,300	68.6
Total	204,000	66.9

[1] The locations where all teachers gained QTS cannot be determined within England and Wales and therefore this table covers those qualifying and in maintained service in both countries.
[2] As a percentage of all teachers recorded as attaining QTS irrespective of whether or not they ever entered service anywhere.
[3] Provisional.
Source: Database of Teacher Records (DTR).

Provisional figures from the DTR, which records all teachers attaining QTS, show that in March 2007 there were 37,600 full and part-time teachers in England gaining QTS since 1997 who entered and then left service in any recorded sector. Recorded sectors on the DTR include maintained schools in England and Wales, independent schools that are members of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme, further education colleges and certain higher education colleges. The source also shows that there were 132,800 teachers aged under 60 attaining QTS at any time who were no longer in service in any recorded sector.

These figures may exclude teachers whose current service status information has not been received as yet. It is also estimated that between 15 and 20 per cent. of part-time teachers service is not recorded on the DTR.

The numbers in service are, therefore, an underestimate and those out of service an overestimate. The figures also include teachers who have left the profession temporarily.

DEFENCE

Harrier Aircraft: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days on average *(a)* pilots and *(b)* engineering and support personnel serving in front-line Harrier squadrons at RAF Cottesmore were deployed on Operation Herrick in the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2008. [illegible]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. On average, each squadron is deployed on Herrick for four in every 12 months.

Tornado Aircraft

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 94-5WH, on RAF operations, whether the Tornado aircraft due to be deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick from 1 April 2009 will be fitted with the Raptor imaging system from the start of their deployment. [241200]

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the statement of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 95WH, on RAF operations, whether the Tornado aircraft due to be deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick from 1 April 2009 will be fitted with the Raptor imaging system from the start of their deployment. [240736]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Tornado GR4 will have the capability to carry the Raptor Reconnaissance Pod from the start of their deployment; however there has not yet been any decision to deploy this capability. An Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capability will be provided by GR4 with an alternative system in the first instance, which delivers the ISR effects required in the Operation Herrick theatre, while providing an optimum balance between weapons and ISTAR payloads.

Veterans: Identity Cards

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to introduce a veterans' identity card; what benefits this card will provide; and if he will make a statement; [240506]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Following the recommendation for a Veterans ID Card in the National Recognition Study undertaken by my hon. Friend, the Member for Grantham and Stamford the (Mr. Davies), the associated issues, options and approximate costs have been determined. These are being considered by Ministers and it is intended to make a statement after further consultation.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 9 December 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Liberal Democrats: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2242W, on Liberal Democrats: finance, what the *(a)* status and *(b)* timetable is of the Electoral Commission's investigation into the permissibility of the donations by Mr. Michael Brown to the Liberal Democrat Party. [241769]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that following the recent conclusion of criminal proceedings against Mr. Michael Brown, it has now resumed its investigation into the permissibility of donations made to the Liberal Democrat Party by Mr. Brown in 2005.

The Commission further informs me that it will now aim to conclude the investigation as quickly as possible, but that its priority must be to ensure that the process is fair and thorough.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the memorandum submitted by the Electoral Commission to the Public Bill Committee of Session 2007-08 on the Political Parties and Elections Bill, in relation to the proposed new trigger rules, whether spending by an individual in relation to a campaign on local issues, but not in relation to their candidacy in a future election, would count as a trigger. [241815]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that in the memorandum it submitted to the Public Bill Committee (PPE 04), which is available on the committee's webpage, it cited the issue of spending in relation to a campaign on local issues as one of the complex questions likely to arise under the proposed new trigger rules.

The Commission informs me that, if the triggering proposal is implemented, it will prepare and consult on guidance on the practical effect of the rules. However, as the Commission noted in its memorandum, the question of when the regulated period is triggered will depend on the specific facts in each particular case.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has given on whether the underwriting of a political party and providing guarantees to auditors should be registered as a donation or a loan. [241848]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not issued guidance on the regulated status of general undertakings that do not amount to or relate to a specific transaction. However, the Commission informs me that its view is that such undertakings are not regulated transactions.

The Commission further informs me that it has published guidance for political parties on the types of donations and regulated transactions that must be reported to the Commission under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. That guidance explains that regulated transactions include guarantees given in respect of a loan, credit facility or other transaction involving the provision of property, services or facilities to a registered party.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prostitution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many brothels have been raided in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [240575]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Sport England: Public Participation

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations responded to Sport England's consultation on distribution of Lottery funding; which responded (i) positively and (ii) negatively; and if he will make a statement. [241668]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it recently published the results of a public consultation into the way it distributes around £45 million a year of National Lottery funding. 536 individuals and organisations took part in the consultation and more than 90 per cent. of them responded positively to the plans.

Sport England advised that they cannot identify the respondents by name without compromising anonymity. Respondents agreed for personal information to be used as part of the analysis of findings only. However, Sport England can provide information on the mix of respondent types.

Community and voluntary organisations (including community sports clubs) comprised the largest proportion of respondents (31 per cent.) followed by local authorities (18 per cent.). Private sector organisations constituted 8 per cent. of respondents and NGBs 7 per cent. This constitutes 33 per cent. of all National Governing Bodies who have applied for Whole Sport Plan Funding over the period 2009-13.

91 per cent. of respondents believed that the Sport England funding proposals were likely to meet the needs of organisations involved in community sport.

6 per cent. of respondents did not believe that the Sport England funding proposals were likely to meet the needs of organisations involved in community sport.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of radiative multiplier was incorporated in the calculations of the carbon emissions data shown in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow airport public consultation document; and if he will make a statement. [241995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document, page 138, explains that the relevant assumptions are set out in the UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts report, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The radiative forcing factor is set out on page 74 of that report. This factor is used by the Department for Transport to uplift the value of climate change impacts to account for the warming effects of non-carbon dioxide emissions released at altitude, and is equal to 1.9.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of motorcycles which were being driven on the road without insurance in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [241653]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no figures available for the number of motorcycles driven without insurance. Our latest estimate for uninsured driving is that in 2005 there were about 2.1 million licensed vehicles being driven uninsured (about 6.5 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet). Information is not held by vehicle type.

Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people his Department employs who have an annual salary of over *(a)* £150,000 and *(b)* £200,000. [241213]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport employs fewer than five people who have an annual salary of *(a)* over £150,000 and therefore these details have been repressed on the grounds of confidentiality. There are no employees who have a salary of *(b)* over £200,000.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 482W, if he will list the reasons why the Maritime and Coastguard Agency was given a spring supplementary estimate of £13,310,000 for financial year 2007-08. [241985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency was given a spring supplementary of £13,310,000 in financial year 2007-08 to cover the additional costs of:

the construction of their new search and rescue helicopter hanger at Lee-on-Solent; higher than expected fuel costs;

additional regulatory and enforcement work; and

additional support for the training of seafarers under the Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) Scheme.

Motorways: Accidents

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies his Department has carried out into the causes of road deaths on motorways; and if he will make a statement. [241211]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All road deaths on motorways are investigated by the police authorities. Information on the deaths is summarised on a stats 19 form that contains detailed information on the contributing factors that led to the incident.

The data can then be disaggregated to allow analysis of specific factors influencing road user groups or causation trends and thus enrich research into ways that road death and serious injury can be reduced, not only on motorways but on all roads.

The Highways Agency also utilises road traffic accident statistics to provide the basis for assessing the effectiveness of road safety policies and the development of engineering design standards.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Interpreters

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interpreters her Department employs for assistance with asylum claims. [241020]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has a panel of freelance interpreters to assist with asylum claims. As at 4 December 2008, the number of interpreters registered with the UKBA Panel was 2,378.

Brussels

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [241256]

Mr. Woolas: All travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental staff handbooks.

The Department's accounting system does not separate expenditure on travel, by destination. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was over that period. [240955]

Mr. Woolas: Media monitoring services have been provided to the Department and its agencies by five companies in the past three years. The following table includes the names of the companies contracted and the total cost incurred in each financial year. The information on contracts held by non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
EDS	81,012	213,145	166,711
The Profile Group	3,574	0.00	0.00
Press Association	3,773	3,452	12,583
Durrants	16,686	0.00	0.00
TNS Media Intelligence	1,912	0.00	0.00
Total	106,957	216,597	179,294

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records her Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240469]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office expenditure on official hospitality, including alcohol, conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Identity Cards: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department expects will be spent on the national identity card scheme in its *(a)* first and *(b)* second year of operation. [240926]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme Cost Report gives a breakdown of the estimated cost of implementing the scheme over the next 10 years. The latest report was published on 6 November 2008.

An electronic copy of the report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/IPS-Cost-report-Nov2008.pdf

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 4 November 2008, regarding a constituent; (HO ref: P1120638). [240352]

Mr. Woolas: The deputy chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Jonathan Sedgwick, wrote to my hon. Friend on 5 December.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters dated 9 October and 7 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr I Adewunmi. [240684]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The UK Border Agency replied to the first letter on 27 October 2008 and Jonathan Sedgwick, deputy chief executive replied to the hon. Member on 3 December 2008 in answer to the second letter.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many buildings are under consideration for the headquarters of the security function for the London 2012 Olympics; and what criteria will apply to the selection of such headquarters; [240315]

(2) how much of the £600 million London 2012 security budget has been provisionally allocated for the headquarters' building. [240325]

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much of the £600 million security budget for the London 2012 Olympics has been provisionally allocated for the headquarters building; [241283]

(2) how many buildings are under consideration to house the headquarters of the security function for the London 2012 Olympics; and by what criteria the buildings under consideration will be judged. [241284]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Work is continuing to finalise the strategy and plans for the security of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. No decisions have been made on the headquarters of the security operations and no funds have been provisionally allocated for this purpose.

Any decisions will need to take account of the operational needs of the police and other security agencies, affordability with the total funding envelope and the need to secure value for money.

Police: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to remove the system of floors and ceilings in the distribution of Government grant funding to police forces. [240343]

Mr. Coaker: The Government made clear in the Green Paper 'From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together' their intention to move to full implementation of the funding formula at the fastest pace that is compatible with ensuring the financial stability of all police authorities.

Proscribed Organisations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many activists of organisations proscribed under terrorism legislation have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted for offences under that legislation in each year since its introduction; and if she will make a statement. [241069]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently unable to provide the information requested.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

This Statistical Bulletin will include figures from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008 showing the number of people arrested under section 41, of the Terrorism Act 2000 or under other legislation where the arrest is considered terrorist related. Arrest statistics cannot be broken down further into the alleged offence being investigated against each arrestee.

The bulletin will provide a breakdown of charges and convictions of terrorism related offences. It will show the numbers of people charged and convicted for the range of proscription offences as covered by sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000, since 2001.

In addition we will not be able to provide information on the convictions the police consider investigating at the time of arrest. All individuals arrested for terrorism offences are arrested under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Terrorism: Detainees

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of offences under anti-terrorism legislation were held for more than 14 days before being charged in the last three years. [240928]

Mr. Coaker: To date 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention. Six of these 11 have been held for the maximum 27 to 28 days, three of which were charged and three released without charge.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [240321]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the last 12 months, core-DEFRA has not used paper Christmas cards, opting instead for a selection of e-greetings cards. The cost of the designs for these cards was £166.00. Everything else was produced in house; therefore there were no other direct charges.

In 2007, Christmas trees and decorations for the main public areas of the DEFRA's estate were donated by Carillion, who were providing facilities management services to DEFRA at that time. To date in 2008, DEFRA has not received any donations or paid for any Christmas trees or decorations.

DEFRA does not pay for Christmas parties for staff.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [240386]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is as follows:

2008-09 Financial Year

(a) Flat screen televisions: £2,698.94

(b) DVD players: £509.96

(c) Stereo equipment: £0

2007-08 Financial Year

(a) Flat screen televisions: £4,707.00

(b) DVD players: £412.00

(c) Stereo equipment: £12,572.00

2006-07 Financial Year

(a) Flat screen televisions: £6,837.00

(b) DVD players: £0

(c) Stereo equipment: £0

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he intends to implement the recommendations of the Pitt Review. [240509]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: The Government's detailed response and a prioritised action plan will be published shortly.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which of the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's final report on the 2007 floods have been, or are in the process of being, implemented; [240886]

(2) when he expects to publish the full programme for implementation of the Pitt Report; and if he will make a statement; [240958]

(3) which of the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's interim report on the 2007 floods *(a)* have been and *(b)* are in the process of being implemented. [241089]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings and will be publishing a detailed response together with a prioritised action plan shortly.

Floods and Water Bill: Draft

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will publish a draft Floods and Water Bill. [240510]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the draft Floods and Water Bill. [240957]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The current timetable is for the draft Bill to be published in spring 2009 for pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation. The final Bill will then be available for introduction in a later parliamentary session.

Forestry Commission

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to page 119 of the pre-Budget report Cm 7684, what options there are for delivery of public value from the state in the long term in respect of the Forestry Commission; and if he will make a statement. [240393]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A study of the public forest estate in England was announced by written ministerial statement on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 37WS.

This study will take approximately 12 months to complete and will include a full public consultation.

As outlined in the pre-Budget report this study will also contribute evidence to the Operational Efficiency Programme as findings emerge.

Ivory: China

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with overseas counterparts on the illegal ivory trade in China; and if he will make a statement. [240969]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No formal discussions have occurred since the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee meeting, held during July 2008 in Geneva, approved the one-off sale of legally stockpiled ivory in an attempt to reduce the demand for illegal ivory. We have been monitoring the lead up to the auctions of the legally stockpiled ivory, which took place at the end of October and beginning of November and will continue to keep in touch with the CITES Secretariat to assess its effects on the illegal trade in ivory.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effects of the proposed relocation of the London headquarters of the Marine Management Organisation on the services provided. [241137]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Much of the work undertaken by Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) HQ is of a specialised nature, and includes meeting EU obligations. For these reasons, an Marine Management Organisation (MMO) skeleton body will be set up to start running from autumn 2009 to run in parallel with the MFA until 31 March 2010 to mitigate any risks to the current high standards of service, and provide the opportunity for knowledge transfer between new and existing staff.

To ensure there is no loss in knowledge and skills from the MFA between now and autumn 2009, I will be announcing a decision on the MMO HQ's location as soon as possible. This is to ensure we have sufficient staff to cover the business over the transition period. We will ensure that existing staff work closely with both the MFA's senior management team and the MMO implementation team to capture knowledge and pass it to MMO staff who will begin to populate the skeleton body.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 21 October 2008, on value added tax on flood defences. [241382]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A reply to the hon. Member's letter was given on 8 December.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 14 October 2008, on climate change. [241384]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation, Lord Hunt, replied to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 24 November 2008.

Poultry: Death

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average mortality rate is of chickens bred and reared in captivity for meat. [241214]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold data on average mortality rates for chickens raised for meat.

Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress his Department has made towards implementing recommendation 21 from Sir Michael Pitt on flooding regarding risk-based standards for public sewerage systems; [241292]

(2) what progress his Department has made towards implementing recommendation 22 from Sir Michael Pitt on flooding regarding industry pricing reviews and the sewerage network. [241293]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's detailed response and a prioritised action plan will be published shortly.

Water Charges

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Ofwat on the role of climate change adaptation in the Ofwat Price Review 2009; and if he will make a statement. [241185]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have regular discussions with Ofwat on a range of issues, including the 2009 Price Review. DEFRA has issued statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat. This provides Ofwat with a steer on the key social and environmental policies that the Government expect it to contribute to in carrying out its role as the independent economic regulator of the water industry. This includes adaptation to climate change. The report is available on the water pages of the DEFRA website.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's position is on the priorities to be achieved by the Ofwat Price Review 2009. [241187]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's priorities for the 2009 Price Review are set out in its Statement of Obligations to water companies and regulators and its statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat. Copies of both documents are available on the water pages of the DEFRA website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Autism

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employees in his Department have been diagnosed with autism-specific disorders. [241983]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not collect data on the number of its staff with autism-specific disorders, and to provide information on this could be only at a disproportionate cost. Staff are encouraged to declare whether they consider themselves disabled, but are not asked to state the nature of the disability.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his Statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 970, on Post Office card account, if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice which said that his decision was the right way to proceed. [241023]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: Legal advice to the Government is confidential, and is covered by legal professional privilege. This enables the Government to obtain full and frank legal advice. For that reason, the Department does not intend to publish any legal advice it has received relating to the Post Office card account.

Social Security Benefits

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to a contemporaneous assessment of the effects on genuine claimants of lie detector tests for applicants for housing and council tax benefit. [241566]

Kitty Ussher: The Department for Work and Pensions is funding 25 local authority pilots of Voice Risk Analysis in housing and council tax benefit as part of wider efforts to improve customer service and reduce fraud. Evaluation of these pilots will include independent social research to determine the impact on customers' behaviour.

State Retirement Pensions

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Benefits Agency has issued to its staff on the practice of cold-calling pensioners to encourage them to receive their pensions directly into their bank accounts. [241567]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Services to pensioners are provided by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS)—the Benefits Agency ceased to exist some years ago.

No such cold calling is being undertaken by PDCS. They are, however, contacting some pensioners to follow-up recent mailings about the payment options available to them.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Electronic Surveillance

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if it is his policy that no *(a)* telephone tapping, *(b)* other interception of communications and *(c)* electronic surveillance shall be authorised in respect of hon. Members; and on how many occasions since 1975, where the interception of communications instigated by hon. Members has been allowed, the interception has not yet been reported to the House. [241438]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Damian Green

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when an official of his Department was first made aware that the hon. Member of Ashford was the subject of the police investigation which led to his arrest; when this information was passed on to a Minister; and to which Minister this information was passed on. [240959]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that Cabinet Office officials were not aware that it was the hon. Member for Ashford who was the subject of the police investigation until after his arrest. Cabinet Office Ministers learnt about the arrest in reports emanating from the media. A description of the exchanges between Cabinet Office officials and the police is being submitted to the Public Administration Select Committee.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have contacted the Civil Service Commission in the last 12 months to draw attention to alleged impropriety in their Department. [241411]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W.

Futurebuilders: Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood, of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Catz Club, which other press releases have been removed from the Futurebuilders website on the basis that they are no longer an investee of Futurebuilders. [241887]

Mr. Byrne: Futurebuilders England Ltd. (FBE) has confirmed that it has removed a press release about "Who Cares? Trust" on the basis that it is no longer a Futurebuilders investee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

E-mail

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission who requested the suspension of the hon. Member for Ashford's parliamentary email account at the time of his arrest; for what reasons; and who authorised its suspension. [240504]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. The House has decided to set up a committee to review this matter.

Mr. Harper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission to which House official the police would be required to submit any request for access to the Parliamentary email system. [241250]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. However the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's protocol sent to individual hon. Members.

Right of Search

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what legal advice the Serjeant at Arms sought in the period between her two meetings with the police, on 26 and 27 November; and from whom she sought that advice. [241388]

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which hon. Members have *(a)* had materials from their place of work taken from the Parliamentary Estate by the police and *(b)* had computer files read (i) on and (ii) off the Estate by the police in the last 10 years. [241392]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. The House has decided to set up a Committee to review this matter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what terms an hon. Member occupies office accommodation granted by the House; which officers of the House are authorised to grant access to the offices of hon. Members under the terms of Code of Practice B issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; and if he will make a statement. [241440]

Nick Harvey: The House provides office accommodation and facilities to help hon. Members carry out their parliamentary duties effectively.

Access to the offices of hon. Members by the police is not a matter for the Commission. However the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's protocol sent to individual hon. Members.

Mr. Harper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which House officials are authorised to grant a request from the police for access to *(a)* the Parliamentary Data and Video Network (PDVN), *(b)* PDVN email accounts and *(c)* PDVN shared drives containing data belonging to hon. Members. [241987]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. However the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's protocol sent to individual hon. Members and in Mr. Speaker's statement today.

Mr. Harper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House authorities require a search warrant to be issued in support of a police request for access to *(a)* the Parliamentary Data and Video Network (PDVN), *(b)* PDVN email accounts and *(c)* PDVN shared drives containing data belonging to hon. Members; and what factors the House authorities take into account in reaching a decision on granting access. [241988]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. However the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's protocol sent to individual hon. Members and in Mr. Speaker's statement today.

Mr. Harper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether access to *(a)* the Parliamentary Data and Video Network (PDVN), *(b)* PDVN email facilities and *(c)* PDVN shared drives containing data belonging to hon., Members, was granted to the Metropolitan Police as part of their search of the premises and property of the hon. Member for Ashford to the extent of (i) data belonging to the hon. Member for Ashford and (ii) data belonging to other hon. Members; in each case whether such access was supported by a search warrant; and what factors House authorities took into account in reaching a decision on such access. [241989]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. However, the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's statement today.

TREASURY

Child Care Vouchers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies had taken up the child care vouchers scheme at the latest date for which figures are available. [241318]

Mr. Timms: No official data are collected from employers regarding the offer of child care voucher schemes to employees. Child care voucher schemes are voluntary schemes and employers are not required to inform HMRC that they offer these arrangements to their employees. Research undertaken in 2006 estimated that approximately 2.5 per cent. of employers offered child care voucher schemes or another form of employer supported child care to their employees. This research can be found at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report23-final.pdf

Exchange Rates

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* sterling and *(b)* foreign currency liabilities due to non-residents in less than six months (i) in cash terms, (ii) as a proportion of UK gross domestic product and (iii) as a proportion of short-term foreign currency assets of the UK authorities and banking institutions. [240301]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Joe Grice, dated December 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking for the a) sterling and (b) foreign currency liabilities due to non-residents in fewer than six months (i) in cash terms, (ii) as a proportion of UK gross domestic product and (iii) as a proportion of short-term foreign currency assets of the UK authorities and banking institutions. I am replying in her absence. (240301)

The Office for National Statistics does not collect data for the remaining time to maturity for liabilities due to non-residents; they are solely recorded on the basis of their original time to maturity. Therefore, the information requested is not available from official sources.

Quarterly data for UK short term assets with, and liabilities to, non-residents are published in tables B17, B18, B19 and B20 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 951W, on excise duties: motor vehicles, for what reason comprehensive data on the carbon dioxide emissions of light goods vehicles is not available to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [241571]

Angela Eagle: Carbon dioxide based Vehicle Excise Duty for cars rests on data produced through the European Union-wide system of vehicle type approval. This system does not produce carbon dioxide data for vans.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the concerns of the Financial Services Authority about the position of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Bank which had been communicated to the Tripartite were first drawn to his attention. [241437]

Ian Pearson: As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Tripartite of its concerns on a regular basis.

Mortgages

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Prime Minister's statement of 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 34-5, how many mortgage-holders have outstanding mortgage balances of *(a)* less than £200,000, *(b)* between £200,000 and £299,000, *(c)* between £300,000 and £399,000 and *(d)* £400,000 or above in (i) the UK, (ii) each English region and (iii) each of the smallest sub-regions for which figures are available. [241559]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not available in the format requested. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) or the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) both publish data on the mortgage market, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/index.shtml

and

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics.

National Insurance Centre: Newcastle

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Newcastle national insurance centre cost to run in each of the last three years. [241565]

Ian Pearson: The National Insurance Contributions Office (NICO) is only one of many occupants of the Benton Park View site, Newcastle. It is therefore not possible to accurately identify estates costs for just NICO.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 936-37W, on political parties: finance, (1) if he will place a copy of the booklet in the Library; [242040]

(2) whether it is the policy of HM Revenue and Customs that payments made to the Parliamentary Labour Party by hon. Members are tax-deductible. [242041]

Mr. Timms: I have arranged for a copy of the booklet, a copy of which is sent to MPs at the start of each Parliament, to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Tax law imposes strict tests on what relief is available for personal expenditure. In general, relief is only available for costs incurred by employees or office holders that are incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the employment or office. No relief is available for MPs' personal donations to political parties which do not satisfy this rule. HMRC's policy in interpreting this is set out in the booklet where it makes clear that tax relief is not due for payments to political organisations for party political purposes.

Tax Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual cases of tax credit overpayments his Department has taken to court to seek recovery of overpayments in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 and *(b)* each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [240303]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1926-27W.

Taxation: Medical Treatments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of tax revenue received by the Exchequer from taxation of private medical treatment provided by employers to employees in 2007-08. [240807]

Mr. Timms: HMRC does not yet have information on the tax revenue received from the taxation of private medical treatment in 2007-08. The tax liability as a result of all taxable benefits provided by employers to employees is published annually on the HMRC website in Table 4.5 at this address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/menu.htm.

A forecast of the total tax liability from private medical and dental treatment or insurance provided to employees by their employers in 2007-08 will be published in spring 2009.

VAT

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his estimate of the cost to businesses of his announced change in the rate of value added tax. [241381]

Ian Pearson: The impact assessment setting out the compliance costs for business can be found on the HM Treasury website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_vat_1845.pdf

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan since 2001. [240349]

Mr. Hutton: The numbers of service personnel killed and injured while serving in Afghanistan are published on the Departmental website at fortnightly intervals, two weeks in arrears, at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsInAfghanistan/OpHerrickCasualtyAndFatalityTables.htm

For convenience, the figures to 15 November 2008, the latest available, are reproduced in the following table:

	Casualties (very seriously or seriously injured)	*Fatalities*
2001	0	0
2002	1	3
2003	1	0
2004	6	1
2005	2	1
2006	31	39
2007	63	42
2008	58	39

It is not possible to provide precise figures for injuries or fatalities resulting from action by friendly forces since it is not possible in each and every case precisely to determine definitively whether incidents were caused by enemy, Afghan or coalition forces.

Armed Forces

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition his Department uses of harmony with regard to each of the three services. [240495]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: Harmony Guidelines are formulated by the single services. Each of the services has a slightly different metric that reflects the ethos and expectations of armed forces personnel. The guidelines are kept under regular review in order to ensure that they reflect the operational requirement of the Department but remain balanced with the requirement of training and recuperation, including leave. Part of recuperation considers retention issues and the assessment of the work/life dynamic is of particular concern. Harmony is split into two related but separate requirements: unit harmony, that primarily relates to force structures and commitments; and individual harmony, that relates to the effect of all separation on individual service personnel.

The Harmony Guidelines are given in the following table.

	Unit Harmony Guideline	*Individual Harmony Guideline*
Royal Navy	Force planners assume that RN and RM units will, over a three year period, spend a maximum of 60 per cent. of their time deployed and 40 per cent. of their time in their base port	The Royal Navy sets Separated Service as a maximum of 660 days Separated Service in a rolling three year period
Army	The Army uses FORM (Formation Operational Readiness Mechanism) to plan for Army units to conduct a six month operational tour followed by an interval of 24 months	The Army tries to adhere to 415 days Separated Service in a 30 month rolling period

	Unit Harmony Guideline	*Individual Harmony Guideline*
Royal Air Force	On the whole, the RAF deploys personnel on individual basis with the RAF Regt being the major exception. The RAF utilises the Operational Deployment Guideline to plan for personnel and units to spend four months on deployed operations followed by 16 months at base	The Royal Air Force has a Separated Service planning target of 280 days in a 24-month rolling period

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will break down the basic salary levels in the armed forces by *(a)* service and *(b)* rank; [241749]

(2) what the pay grades are of officers above the NATO rank of OF-3 in all three services, broken down by rank. [242032]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Pay rates for all members of the armed forces up to the rank of Brigadier and equivalent are recommended by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) in its annual report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence. Copies of the AFPRB's 37th report—2008 (Cm 7315) and its Supplement (Cm 7347), which covers the pay of service medical and dental officers, are available in the Library of the House. Both reports show the recommended pay rates for officers and other ranks, for financial year 2008-09, by service rank (including NATO equivalent) and spine point. The recommendations contained in both reports have been accepted in full by the Government and implemented with effect from 1 April 2008.

Pay-rates for all senior service officers of the ranks shown as follows are recommended by the independent Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) in its annual report to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Health.

2 Star—Rear Admiral/Major General/Air Vice Marshal (NATO Equivalent—OF7)

3 Star—Vice Admiral/Lieutenant General/Air Marshal (NATO Equivalent—OF8)

4 Star—Admiral/General/Air Chief Marshal (NATO Equivalent—OF9)

Chief of the Defence Staff

Copies of the SSRB's 30th report on senior salaries (Cm 7388) are available in the Library of the House. The recommendations contained in the report in respect of senior service officers have been accepted in full by the Government and implemented with effect from 1 April 2008.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces will be on active duty abroad on 25 December 2008, broken down by location. [241982]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The endorsed force level for UK military operations are set out in the table. While we do not routinely comment on future troop deployments, we have no reason to believe these figures will change significantly by 25 December 2008.

Location	*Endorsed number (at 5 December 2008)*[1]
Afghanistan	8,050
Southern Iraq	4,100
Baghdad[2]	250
At sea	1,050
Falklands/South Atlantic	1,500
Qatar	700
Cyprus	300
Kuwait	550
Kosovo	150
Bahrain	50
Bosnia	Less than 50
Other[3]	150

[1] Rounded

[2] Providing support to the Senior British Military Representative—Iraq.

[3] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, and headquarters liaison officers.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and other factors.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's housing sites have reported infestations from *(a)* vermin, *(b)* insects and *(c)* any other pests in the last 24 months. [241979]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel there are, broken down by *(a)* service, *(b)* rank, *(c)* age and *(d)* sex. [241751]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on service and sex can be found in table 1 of Tri Service Publication (TSP) 1—Total Strength of UK Regular Forces by gender. TSP 1 is published on monthly basis and the latest information as at 1 October 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=31&date=2008-11-27&type=html&PublishTime=09:30:00

Information on rank can be found in table 1 of Tri Service Publication (TSP) 9—UK Regular Forces Rank Structure. TSP 9 is published on quarterly basis and the latest information as at 1 October 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=90.15&date=2008-12-03&type=html&PublishTime=09:30:00

Information on age can be found in table 1 of Tri Service Publication (TSP) 8—UK Regular Forces by age and sex. TSP 8 is published on an annual basis and the latest information as at 1 April 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=80&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=20080529&disText=01%20April%202008&from=listing&topDate=2008-05-29

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers with the NATO rank of OF-3 or above are employed by each of the three services, broken down by rank. [242031]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the number of officers with the NATO rank of OF-3 or above employed by each of the three services, broken down by rank can be found in table 1 of Tri Service Publication (TSP) 9—UK Regular Forces rank structure. TSP 9 is published on quarterly basis and the latest information as at 1 October 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/

Armed Forces: Parcels

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of parcels sent from members of the public to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan but not addressed to an individual which had not been delivered in the latest period for which figures are available; and how such parcels were treated by the British Forces Post Office. [240451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: We do not record separately the number of unsolicited parcels received from members of the public by personnel deployed on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) policy is that unsolicited mail will be moved to operational theatres as and when there is sufficient spare capacity to move it without affecting the mail from family and friends. The recent MOD publicity campaign seeking to discourage unsolicited parcels has significantly reduced the volumes of unsolicited mail currently being processed by the BFPO and as a result the relatively small quantities of such mail are being processed with minimal delay. I should, however, emphasise that any return to the sorts of volumes of unsolicited mail witnessed last year could result in substantial delays to personal mail and we cannot allow that to happen.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ongoing pension scheme commitment is given to service personnel, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* length of service. [241748]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All individuals are provided with an induction pack on joining the armed forces which contains information about pension provision. Similarly, when they leave service, they receive a leaver's pack which includes details about their pension benefits.

Full details of all the armed forces pension schemes and their provisions are in the public domain and can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Personnel/Pensions/ArmedForcesPensions/

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured or protected Land Rovers of each type were deployed to Iraq prior to October 2003; and when they were deployed. [241279]

Mr. Hutton: No armoured or protected Land Rovers were deployed in Iraq prior to October 2003. 208 Snatch Mk1 protected vehicles were deployed to Iraq in November 2003.

Departmental Lost Property

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months. [241980]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1542-43W, by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240474]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD budget managers are required to retain the original claim forms for the reimbursement of official entertainment, and supporting evidence, for a minimum of seven financial years. The supporting evidence will show where authorisation has been given for both the consumption of alcohol at public expense and any incidental expenditure (such as service charges).

Expenditure on official entertainment is recorded as a single discrete item in the MOD's Chart of Accounts (Joint Service Publication 530) and reported annually in the MOD's Departmental Resource Accounts, most recently on page 298 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 (HC 850-1).

The regulations on the provision of official entertainment at public expense are set out in chapter 45 of the MOD's Financial Management Policy Manual (Joint Service Publication 462).

Copies of all publications referred to are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost was in each case; which private contractors were contracted in respect of such exercises; and how much each was paid. [242269]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1548W.

Departmental Recruitment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have joined his Department in a *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military capacity in each of the last three years, broken down by service. [241981]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on intake of civilian personnel in each of the last three financial years can be found in Table 2.33 of UKDS 2008—Intake and Outflow of Civilian Personnel. This information can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/c2/table233.html

Information on intake from civil life to the UK regular forces personnel in each of the last three financial years can be found in Table 2.19 of UKDS 2008—Intake to UK Regular Forces by Service and Sex. This information can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/c2/table219.html

Copies of UKDS are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which projects his Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned in each case; and how much was paid. [242215]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1547W.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 631-32W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242715]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. It is departmental policy that temporary staff can be engaged for periods of up to 11 months only.

Gulf War

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by friendly fire during the 1990-91 Gulf War. [241264]

Mr. Hutton: Information on casualties has only been centrally compiled since 2001 and it is therefore not possible to identify UK Service personnel injured during the Gulf War 1990-91 without incurring disproportionate cost.

During the 1990-91 Gulf War, nine UK Service personnel died as a result of friendly fire.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the Jaish-al-Mahdi prisoners released under the prisoner release scheme agreed by the British Army and the Iraqi Government had been involved in attacks on British forces. [240443]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: Under UN Security Council Resolution 1546 and subsequent resolutions, UK forces in Iraq are authorised to detain persons whom they judge to represent an imperative threat to security. This could include members of groups which may have been involved in attacks against Iraqi or coalition forces or have been planning such attacks.

For all individuals detained by UK forces, the decision to release was taken by the Divisional Internment Review Committee on the basis that these individuals no longer represented an imperative threat to security. We do not comment on cases or circumstances relating to individual detainees.

Joint Force Harrier

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1554W, on the Joint Force Harrier, where the harmony records for the Joint Force Harrier are kept. [243052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Harmony records for the Joint Force Harrier are not held centrally. Deployment records for individual personnel are held on the Joint Personnel Administration system. Translating these into exact Harmony records for units could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Piracy

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to commanders in relation to *(a)* detention of pirates and *(b)* applications for asylum by pirates detained on Royal Navy vessels. [240452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: Commanding officers of Royal Navy ships are issued with guidance on the applicable law and principles relating to the handling and detention of those suspected of committing offences on the high seas. I am withholding this information as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

With respect to applications for asylum, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans gave on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 669W, to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin).

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance Royal Navy personnel *(a)* have been and *(b)* will be given in (i) the impact of human rights legislation on the ability to transfer captured pirates to other countries, including their own, (ii) the prospect of such captives claiming rights and benefits in the United Kingdom and (iii) whether to take pirates into captivity on Royal Navy vessels. [241991]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Commanding Officers of Royal Navy ships are issued with guidance on the applicable law and principles relating to the handling and detention of those suspected of committing offences on the high seas. More detailed guidance, specific to the particular operations or circumstances, is issued when required.

Commanding Officers are not empowered to decide on an individual's entitlement to rights and benefits, including applications for asylum; that is a matter for the Home Office.

Tornado Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Terma self-defence suite will be part of the initial operating capability of Tornados deployed on Operation Herrick from 1 April 2009. [241358]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: The Department has a policy of not commenting on the details of its defensive aids capabilities. The release of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1559-60W, on Tornado GR4, whether the interim Paveway IV capability will have been integrated onto the Tornado before its deployment of Operation Herrick. [241359]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Trident Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Trident submarines are on active service; how many are being repaired; and if he will make a statement. [241353]

Mr. Hutton: There are currently two Vanguard Class submarines in the operational fleet, which will be joined next year by a third boat on completion of sea trials following a Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) (LOP(R)). The fourth boat is currently undergoing a LOP(R).

Veterans: Compensation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Prime Minister's Answer to the hon. Member for Billericay of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 664, what measures the Government have taken to reconsider the atomic test veterans' claim in light of the most recent scientific evidence. [242033]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have a responsibility to investigate all new research regarding the possibility of any harmful health effects of the nuclear tests we have carried out in the past. The Government have, therefore, studied the most recent scientific evidence from Massey University New Zealand on genetic damage in a group of Royal New Zealand Navy participants in the British nuclear tests. The study report expressly states that its findings throw no light on health effects. The Government's position remains the same, as previously stated, in relation to the common law claim brought by a group of veterans and deceased veterans' dependants or beneficiaries, of the UK's nuclear weapon testing programme. A preliminary trial on limitation is due to commence at the High Court on 19 January 2009.

The wider published peer-reviewed epidemiological evidence to date has not demonstrated a general link between ill-health and participation in the tests. In the event, the vast majority of participants in the UK nuclear weapons trials did not receive any recorded dose of ionising radiation. Some participants received doses that were not significantly above zero. A very few individuals, because of their specialist roles, received higher dose levels, but within the safety limits appropriate at the time. Where the health of these participants has been affected by their service, we pay compensation under our no-fault compensation arrangements.

I am determined to ensure that all avenues of research are looked at. I am therefore pleased to report that I had a constructive meeting with the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA) in late October to discuss the possibility of a new MOD study into health issues, particularly in relation to offspring. My officials are now in discussion with the BNTVA and scientific advisers on the scientific and ethical issues relevant to a further study. I am hopeful that I will be able to make an announcement early in the new year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the central fire service advisory committee has met since it was established; what the main outcomes were of such meetings; and if she will make a statement. [241429]

Mr. Khan: The Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council was set up under section 29 of the Fire Services Act 1947. The council was abolished under section 51 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The information requested could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Coastal Town Network

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1276-77W, on regeneration: coastal areas, which central Government Departments were involved in the Coastal Town Network (CTN); how many times the CTN met; at what level each department was represented; and which local authorities were represented. [241508]

John Healey: Officials from six Departments (BERR, CLG, DCMS, DEFRA, DIUS and DWP) have been involved in the work of the Coastal Towns Network (CTN) so far. The CTN has met twice to date: in July and October 2008, with the next meeting planned for January 2009. Central Government Departments are represented at deputy director (Grade 5) and senior management (Grades 6 or 7) levels.

The city of Brighton and Hove and Kent county council attended the first meeting of the Network in Brighton. East Lindsey district council, Boston district council and Lincolnshire county council attended the Network's second meeting in Skegness.

Local authorities are also represented at the meetings through bodies like the British Resorts and Destinations Association, the Coastal Communities Alliance and the BURA—British Urban Regeneration Association—Seaside Network.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240476]

Mr. Khan: All expenditure on official hospitality is recorded on the Department's finance system. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1261W, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald).

Fire Services: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from fire fighters on their status as statutory consultees on flooding emergencies. [241641]

Mr. Khan: Following the extensive floods during the summer of 2007 Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser conducted a review into the response of the fire and rescue service to the floods, and Sir Michael Pitt conducted a wide-ranging, independent review into floods. During the course of these two reviews and ensuing work, many representations were received from the fire and rescue service, including the Chief Fire Officers Association and the Fire Brigades Union. The two reviews were published earlier this year. The Government's response to Sir Michael's report is expected to be published shortly.

Fire Services: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained fire officers there were in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [241430]

Mr. Khan: The number of whole-time and retained firefighters in England since 1997, as at 31 March each year, is shown as follows.

Whole-time and retained duty system firefighters in England

	Whole-time	*Retained*	*Total*
1997	32,033	13,016	45,049
1998	31,855	12,847	44,702
1999	31,918	13,022	44,940
2000	31,616	13,021	44,637
2001	31,597	13,097	44,694
2002	31,592	13,013	44,605
2003	31,614	13,044	44,658
2004	31,856	13,015	44,871
2005	31,053	13,543	44,596
2006	30,744	13,927	44,671
2007	30,804	14,212	45,016
2008	30,824	14,166	44,990

Source:
Annual Returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Training

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many weeks intensive training is required to be undertaken by fire service recruits in each of the fire authority areas in each of the last six years. [241431]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Urban Areas

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of lives saved through the Urban Search and Rescue programme since its inception in February 2008. [240808]

Mr. Khan: Different elements of the urban search and rescue capability are used routinely by Fire and Rescue Services at the local level. The Department does not hold statistics on the number of lives saved through deployment of the urban search and rescue capability.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the welfare of dogs involved in the Fire Service's Urban Search and Rescue programme is monitored; and with whom responsibility for such monitoring lies. [240809]

Mr. Khan: As part of the New Dimension programme, CLG has provided funding for 20 Urban Search and Rescue teams, hosted by Fire and Rescue Services across the country. As part of each of these teams, the Department has made provision for a search and rescue dog and a handler. Responsibility for the welfare of the dogs lies with the host brigades.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has carried out on the effect of home information packs on the housing market; and if she will make a statement. [241212]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1089W.

Homelessness: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are in temporary accommodation in each local authority area in Essex. [240295]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of dependent children (or expected children) in these households is also collected, but data on the number of adults is not. The latest (end June 2008) figures for total households and total children reported by the Essex authorities are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Households in temporary accommodation, and number of children within these households (as at 30 June 2008)

Local authority	*Total households in TA arranged by authority*	*Total children (and expected children) within these households*
Basildon	315	382
Braintree	67	75
Brentwood	92	139
Castle Point	118	176
Chelmsford	83	57
Colchester	191	265
Epping Forest	79	98
Harlow	233	229
Maldon	38	49
Rochford	34	51
Southend-on-Sea	49	103
Tendring	172	206
Thurrock	66	74
Uttlesford	27	27

Authorities also report the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by each authority, who have been housed outside the borough. Latest figures reported by the Essex authorities are shown in Table 2. Data specifically on the number of children and adults housed outside the borough are not held centrally.

Table 2: Households in temporary accommodation, and of which those housed outside the borough (as at 30 June 2008)

Local authority	*Total households in TA arranged by authority*	*of which the number housed outside borough*
Basildon	315	0
Braintree	67	0
Brentwood	92	0
Castle Point	118	10
Chelmsford	83	0
Colchester	191	6
Epping Forest	79	7
Harlow	233	0
Maldon	38	4
Rochford	34	15
Southend-on-Sea	49	0
Tendring	172	0
Thurrock	66	3
Uttlesford	27	0

Housing Revenue Accounts

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what figures were included within the formula to account for provision for debt servicing for those authorities that received positive subsidy under the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system for 2008-09. [241485]

Mr. Iain Wright: Out of 204 local authorities with a Housing Revenue Account, 178 have the servicing of a notional level of debt, the Subsidy Capital Financing Requirement (SCFR) supported by the HRA subsidy system. The remaining 26 are considered to be debt free and have a zero or negative SCFR. Of the 178 local authorities that have a level of debt supported by the HRA subsidy system 43 are in positive subsidy. In addition those authorities in Rounds 1 and 2 of the ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) programme receive an ALMO allowance to support the associated borrowing. For all other ALMOs the support for the associated borrowing is included within the SCFR. The support for debt servicing is then offset against other elements of the subsidy system to determine net subsidy entitlement.

The following table lists the SCFR and ALMO allowance for authorities likely to be in receipt of subsidy for 2008-09.

		£
	SCFR	*ALMO allowance (Round 1 and 2 only[1])*
Ashfield	34,093,939	4,425,000
Barnsley	132,249,400	11,320,000
Blackpool	33,850,983	0
Blyth Valley	34,843,948	3,868,640
Bolton	131,156,102	12,604,000
Braintree	7,356,989	0
Brent	343,290,867	4,320,000
Camden	523,110,271	0
City of London	13,990,928	0
Derby	111,264,305	7,774,000
Doncaster	219,278,605	0
Ealing	314,717,560	0
Easington	68,691,319	0
Eastbourne	45,731,010	0
Gateshead	266,985,653	0
Greenwich	418,654,476	0
Hackney	702,774,111	0
Hammersmith	384,753,640	0
Haringey	445,710,700	0
Hounslow	164,486,906	7,972,000
Islington	777,567,091	0

	SCFR	£ *ALMO allowance (Round 1 and 2 only[1])*
Kensington	150,637,763	3,475,120
Kingston-upon-Hull	225,648,897	0
Kirklees	127,168,014	17,964,000
Lambeth	566,740,126	0
Leeds	400,860,237	32,811,124
Leicester	209,008,128	0
Lewisham	372,292,767	0
Liverpool	564,864,169	0
Manchester	693,928,643	0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	542,135,600	0
Newham	601,918,159	0
Nottingham	272,639,181	0
Oldham	127,656,709	6,912,000
Rochdale	134,476,958	8,504,000
Salford	269,162,203	0
Sheffield	746,430,799	0
South Norfolk[2]	0	0
Southwark	743,772,141	0
Stockton	85,651,501	5,040,000
Tower Hamlets	427,383,831	0
Waltham Forest	254,266,667	0
Westminster	183,093,347	5,920,000
Wigan	116,422,575	10,984,000
Wansbeck[2]	0	0

[1] A Borrowing associated with later ALMO rounds is incorporated within the SCFR.

[2] South Norfolk and Wansbeck have undertaken Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) and are likely to receive very small amounts of residual subsidy in 2008-09.

Note:

All these figures are provisional and subject to change later in the financial year.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken to ensure that access to the MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme is equitable across regions and counties. [240870]

Mr. Iain Wright: The MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme is delivered by equity loan providers, who were selected following a competitive bidding process to ensure national coverage and a choice for customers. The scheme is demand led. Initial allocations to providers followed the indicative regional split of the overall National Affordable Housing Programme, which is based on a formula that reflects key policy outcomes. Initial allocations are then reviewed periodically and adjusted according to levels of actual demand.

Housing: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will visit Wellingborough to discuss future housing development in the area. [241414]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government Ministers are more than happy to discuss housing development in Wellingborough when we next visit north Northamptonshire.

Regional Development Agencies: Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements in respect of political impartiality there are on directors of regional development agencies; and if she will make a statement. [240261]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Each regional development agency has a code of practice for all staff, including directors and board members, in line with the model code produced by the Cabinet Office. All staff are required to conduct themselves with integrity and impartiality, whatever their personal political views.

Regional Planning and Development: Northamptonshire

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation is required to prepare a statement of community involvement. [240689]

Mr. Khan: West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) is a local delivery vehicle. It does not have development plan powers and is not required to prepare a statement of community involvement.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the consultation on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [241329]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The Secretary of State received around 35,000 responses from individuals and organisations to the consultation on her Proposed Changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. This is the largest number ever received to such a consultation. My officials at the Government Office for the South West are currently assessing the responses and the Secretary of State will consider proposals for a revised timetable shortly.

Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations in Sir Michael Pitt's final report on the 2007 floods that the automatic right to connect surface water drainage from new developments to the sewerage system be removed. [240888]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings and will be publishing a detailed response together with a prioritised action plan shortly.

Tenants rights

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department takes to protect tenants of private landlords who have their property repossessed. [240798]

Mr. Iain Wright: We believe it is good practice where possible for the lender to let the tenancy run and use the rental payments to cover the mortgage repayments until the end of the tenancy or where the tenancy has become a periodic tenancy to give the statutory two month notice period as a minimum. Where this is not possible we would hope that as a matter of best practice the mortgage lender would feel able to keep the tenant informed and to give them as much notice as possible if they have to find alternative accommodation.

Officials are in discussions with the Council of Mortgage Lenders to explore ways in which best practice can be implemented and tenants can be kept better informed in these situations.

If a tenant becomes homeless as a result of their landlord's failure to keep up with mortgage payments the local council should be able to help in terms of providing temporary accommodation and assisting the tenant in their search for somewhere to live.

Travelling People: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1287-88W, on Travelling people: coastal areas, what assessment her Department has made of the needs of non-migrant transient populations in seaside towns; [241510]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1280W, on the revenue support grant, if she will consider the introduction of an explicit measure of transient population as part of formula grant distribution system. [241512]

John Healey: The CLG Committee report on coastal towns published in March 2007 defined 'transient populations' in the broadest sense to be composed of UK adults of working age (who may move with their children) and overseas migrant workers who move on a frequent basis.

There is, however, no consistent definition of transient populations and therefore no centrally produced measure of them. Given this, it is not possible to assess the needs of non-migrant transient populations in seaside towns or to include an explicit measure of such populations, as part of the formula distribution system.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her reasons were for recovering the planning appeals relating to the wind farms at *(a)* Crook Hill, *(b)* Todmorden Moor and *(c)* Reaps Moss. [241412]

Mr. Khan: The reason for recovering these appeals was as a result of public interest in the proposals, being development of major importance having more than local significance, particularly bearing in mind the cumulative impact that the proposals could have.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Brussels

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [241258]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent £325,396 on visits to Brussels during the period 2007-08. This figure includes hotel accommodation.

The number of visits by air and rail was:

(a) air: 69

(b) rail: 1,334

All travel by Civil Servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental handbook.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are employed to assist special advisers. [240385]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently three full-time equivalent staff employed to assist the Special Advisers.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 679W, on Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: telephone services, when he expects Ofcom's new guidance to be published. [241058]

Mr. McFadden: Ofcom does not currently have any plans to issue further guidance for public bodies on the use of 03 or any other number. I understand that Department for Transport is waiting for the conclusion of Ofcom's work on its proposals to make changes to charging arrangements for 0870 numbers. I understand that Ofcom is aiming to publish this policy statement by the end of this year.

EU Working Time Directive

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the vote in the European Parliament scheduled for 17 December 2008 on amendments to the EU Working Time Directive; and if he will make a statement. [241085]

Mr. McFadden: The Working Time Common Position that was agreed by the Employment Council in June of this year represents a good outcome for Europe—it provides a fair deal for workers, without damaging competitiveness and so putting jobs at risk. The UK remains fully committed to that Common Position, in particular its maintenance of the right of individuals to opt out of the maximum 48 week if they wish. UK Ministers have maintained regular contact with counterparts across the EU on this issue, and hope the European Parliament will vote to support the Common Position on 17 December.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons the letter sent to his Department by the hon. Member for Walsall North dated 5 November 2008 regarding a constituent was not referred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport until the end of November. [240351]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The letter from my hon. Friend was referred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 14 November.

Office of Communications: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff Ofcom employs; at what cost; and what budget has been set for Ofcom for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11. [240339]

Mr. McFadden: I am informed by the Office of Communications (Ofcom) that as of the 31 March 2008, Ofcom employed 812 members of staff and the total staff costs for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 was £60.8 million.

Ofcom sets its budget on an annual basis, which is published on the 31 March of every year, and I am therefore unable to provide all the requested information. Ofcom's budget for 2008-09 will be £133.7 million, 1.5 per cent. lower in real terms than its budget for 2007-08 and 17.5 per cent. lower in real terms than Ofcom's original full-year budget set in 2004-5. Additionally, Ofcom agreed a four year funding settlement with Her Majesty's Treasury on 24 February 2007, and for 2009-10 and 2010-11 it is £142 million and £143 million respectively.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which bodies are designated as bodies able to make super complaints to the Office of Fair Trading pursuant to the provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002. [241652]

Mr. Thomas: The following bodies are designated super-complainants: the Campaign for Real Ale Limited; the Consumer Council for Water ("Watervoice"); the Consumers' Association ("Which?"); the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland; the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux; and the National Consumer Council ("Consumer Focus").

Overseas Trade: Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on promoting trade between the UK and Australia in each of the last five years. [240851]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 907W, on the political levy, what guidance his Department issues on whether material which promotes a political party may be sent out with the ballot papers for the political levy ballot; and if he will make a statement. [242047]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not issue guidance on this issue.

HEALTH

Allergies: Doctors

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist allergy doctors have been employed by the NHS in each of the last five years; and how many are expected to be employed in each of the next five years. [241764]

Ann Keen: The number of doctors working in the allergy speciality in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

	Number
2007	45
2006	24
2005	16
2004	36
2003	24

Work force planning is the responsibility of local national health service organisations who are best placed to ensure that the workforce is available to meet the needs of their local community.

Allergies: Vaccinations

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effectiveness of allergy vaccines in treatment; and if he will make a statement. [241765]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

Cancer

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has completed his assessment of options for providing modern proton therapy services; [240362]

(2) what recent progress has been made in the pilot training programme for laparoscopic colorectal cancer; and if he will make a statement; [240902]

(3) what recent progress has been made on the National Cancer Equality Initiative; and if he will make a statement; [240906]

(4) what recent progress has been made on the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative relating to cancer; and if he will make a statement; [240909]

(5) whether the extension of the age range for breast cancer screening to include women aged 47 to 73 years has been implemented; [240910]

(6) what progress his Department has made in its work on digital mammography; and if he will make a statement; [240912]

(7) whether the national roll-out of liquid-based cytology to all laboratories has been completed; [240913]

(8) whether the review of the Prostate Cancer Risk-management Programme has been completed; [240914]

(9) when he expects the Prostate Cancer Risk-management Programme to be relaunched; [240915]

(10) what recent progress has been made on the National Cancer Survivors Initiative; and if he will make a statement. [241335]

Ann Keen: This information can be found in the first annual report of the 'Cancer Reform Strategy, Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report', published on 1 December 2008. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Cervical Cancer

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of regional differences in cervical cancer rates in England; what steps his Department is taking to reduce higher rates; and if he will make a statement; [240823]

(2) how many women were *(a)* called for a smear test and *(b)* attended the screening in the latest period for which figures are available; [240824]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase the attendance rate for cervical screenings; [240825]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to improve awareness of cervical cancer amongst people in deprived areas. [240826]

Ann Keen: In 2007-08, 4,177,720 women were invited for cervical screening by the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in England, and 3,374,826 women were screened.

On 2 December 2008, the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) published a study showing that women living in more deprived areas were nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than those living in more affluent areas. In the most deprived areas of England, there were 12 women per 100,000 diagnosed with cervical cancer between 2000 and 2004, compared to only six per 100,000 in the most affluent areas. The researchers mainly attributed this gap to the lower uptake of cervical screening in deprived areas.

The Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) said that we wished to reduce the variation of cervical screening coverage between primary care trusts. NHS Cancer Screening Programmes have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to work with six primary care trusts with deprived communities to develop and test initiatives that aim to improve the uptake of cervical screening in women aged 25 to 35. They are using social marketing techniques and, once the different possible initiatives have been evaluated, the results will be disseminated. The project begins in January 2009 and will run for one year.

In addition, in order to provide services with an incentive to introduce higher coverage, the decision has been taken to have a tariff for cervical screening. This is being taken forward by the Department working closely with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes.

Continuing Care: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department routinely collect in respect of continuing care. [241272]

Phil Hope: The Department routinely collects, quarterly by primary care trust, a return showing the number of people in receipt of continuing care on that day.

Dental Services: Children

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the relative condition of children's teeth in England in comparison *(a)* with previous years and *(b)* with other EU countries for benchmarking purposes. [240543]

Ann Keen: There has been a most impressive improvement in children's oral health. National surveys undertaken every 10 years show that between 1973 and 2003 the proportion of children starting school with no experience of tooth decay increased from 30 per cent. to 59 per cent. Over the same period, the proportion of 12-year-old children with decayed missing, or filled (DMFT) permanent teeth has fallen from 93 per cent. to a historic low of 38 per cent. As the following extract from The World Health Organisation Global Database of Oral Health shows, in this age group, the United Kingdom and Germany have the lowest levels of tooth decay.

Europe 2002-06, DMFT for 12-year-olds

Country	*Year*	*DMFT*
Austria	2002	1
Cyprus	2005	1.14
Czech Republic	2002	2.5
Denmark	2006	0.8
France	2006	1.2
Germany	2005	0.7
Iceland	2005	1.4
Ireland	2002	1.1
Italy	2004	1.1
Latvia	2004	3.4
Netherlands	2002	0.8
Norway	2004	1.7
Poland	2003	3.2
Sweden	2005	1

Europe 2002-06, DMFT for 12-year-olds

Country	Year	DMFT
Switzerland	2004	0.86
United Kingdom	2004-05	0.7

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* fillings and *(b)* extractions were carried out on children's teeth in each of the regions in the last year. [240544]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of courses of treatment (CoTs) delivered, by patient type (including children) during 2007-08, is available in Table F1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. This table includes CoTs that can attract a patient charge only and therefore excludes those CoTs occurring in charge-exempt courses, such as denture repair. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

An activity analysis of a sample of child CoTs processed in 2007-08, by treatment band, is available in Table B4 of the 'Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England and Wales 2007-08' report. This information is available at a national level only for both England and Wales.

This table includes information on fillings and extractions and presents this as the percentage of CoT that included these items of treatment, the number of items of treatment per 100 CoT and the average number of treatment items per CoT.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentaltba0708

Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of exception reporting relating to diabetes there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years for which figures are available, ranked by local authority in descending order. [240297]

Ann Keen: A copy of the information requested on exception rates for diabetes has been placed in the Library.

Diabetes: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with implementation of the recommendations of the report, Making every young person with diabetes matter. [240357]

Ann Keen: The report Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter focuses on the effective commissioning, organisation and provision of services, and recognises the key role played by specialist diabetes teams for children and young people. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

A Children and Young People Diabetes Implementation Support Group has been set up to take forward work on the report's recommendations. The group is chaired by the National Clinical Director for Children, Dr. Sheila Shribman, and includes representation from Diabetes UK, royal colleges, young people with diabetes, parents and representatives from organisations with an interest in this area, including the Healthcare Commission.

Diabetes: Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the role of diabetes specialist nurses in ensuring that people with diabetes achieve the recommended HbA1c levels; [240286]

(2) what assessment he has made of the role of diabetes specialist nurses in improving standards of care for those admitted to hospital with particular reference to *(a)* access to the inpatient diabetes specialist nurses, *(b)* reducing medicines error and length of stay and *(c)* production of local guidelines regarding continuity of care once patients are discharged into the community. [240287]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made a formal assessment of the role of diabetes specialist nurses in helping people with diabetes achieve recommended HbA1c levels or in improving standards of care for those admitted to hospital.

We are clear, however, that diabetes specialist teams, including diabetes specialist nurses, are a vital part of good diabetes care. The importance of this team working was highlighted in the National Diabetes Support Team's 2007 report "Diabetes in the NHS". In 2008 the National Diabetes Support Team also produced Improving emergency and in-patient care for people with diabetes', which sets out the valuable role that diabetes in-patient specialist nurses can play in improving the experience of people with diabetes in hospital, reducing length of stay and reducing rates of readmission. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Diabetes: Screening

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the target for the NHS to offer screening to all people with diabetes has been met. [240356]

Ann Keen: The target to offer screening for retinopathy to all people with diabetes was not met in all places. Latest figures for September 2008 show that 93.1 per cent. of people with diabetes were offered screening for diabetic retinopathy that met stringent national clinical standards of quality and safety in the previous twelve months. Great progress has been made and more people with diabetes are being offered screening for retinopathy than ever before.

We are providing support to the minority of primary care trusts that have not met the target to ensure that all people with diabetes are offered screening to national clinical standards as quickly as possible.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to public funds of the Family Nurse Partnerships programme has been to date; [240707]

(2) whether evaluation of the Family Nurse Partnerships Programme pilots has been completed; and if he will make a statement. [240708]

Ann Keen: The Government allocated a budget of £7 million across 2006-07 and 2007-08 to support, deliver and test the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP). It announced in October 2007 that it would invest £30 million over 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2011-12 to continue to test and expand the FNP.

A two-year formative evaluation of implementation in the first 10 FNP test sites is being conducted by the University of London, Birkbeck. A report of findings in the first year was published on the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) research website in July this year, and this suggested that early signs are promising.

The FNP programme will also be evaluated through a randomised controlled trial, from April 2009. The trial is being led by the South East Wales Trials Unit at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University. It will test the impact of the FNP compared with other services on pregnancy and birth outcomes, on child health and development and on parental life course. It will also assess costs, through an economic evaluation.

Headaches

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working population who are absent as a result of headache or migraine on any one day. [241419]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the proportion of the working population absent due to headaches or migraine.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the provision of headache disorder care within the NHS. [241423]

Ann Keen: The Department has published the "National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions" that details service provision for those living with neurological conditions, including migraine and severe headaches. A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library. The strategic health authorities now have the responsibility for commissioning and ensuring the provision of health and social care services to meet the local needs of those in their local population living with headaches.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the independent evaluation of patients' experience, the workforce implications and the costings of a national primary angioplasty service has been completed. [240355]

Ann Keen: The independent evaluation of patient experience and workforce implications and the economic evaluation of primary angioplasty was published on 20 October 2008 by the National Institute for Health Research Service Delivery and Organisation Programme. The costings of the national roll out of primary angioplasty were published as part of the Impact Assessment for the best practice guidance, "Treatment of Heart Attack National Guidance" on the same date.

Copies of these reports have been placed in the Library and can be found on the following websites:

http://www.sdo.nihr.ac.uk/sdo1202006.html

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089455

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cardiac rehabilitation programmes in England have contributed to the national audit of cardiac rehabilitation; [240363]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of adequacy of cardiac rehabilitation services in England. [240364]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information about the number of cardiac rehabilitation programmes in England who have contributed to the national audit of cardiac rehabilitation, and the quality of service provided.

This information is available in the annual national audit of cardiac rehabilitation's (NACR) 2008 annual report which can be found on the NACR's website:

www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/dataset.htm.

We do need to focus our attention on improving cardiac rehabilitation services. Chapter Seven of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, published in 2000, issued appropriate guidance to the national health services regarding the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Implementation of this guidance is a matter for the local NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the process is by which relatives of patients are informed when a patient has contracted MRSA or another hospital-acquired infection in each hospital in England. [240567]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information on individual trusts' policies for informing patients and their relatives of diagnoses. This is a matter for local determination.

Test results for health care associated infections provide information as to where the infection was identified only. Infections may be acquired outside of the trust making the diagnosis.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements must be met for a company to receive remuneration for the dispensing of incontinence appliances under a dispensing appliance contractors licence; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [241125]

Phil Hope: In order to provide and to be paid for appliances supplied as part of NHS services in England, a contractor should apply to the primary care trust (PCT) in which its premises are situated to be included on that PCT's pharmaceutical list. This also applies if an existing NHS contractor changes ownership. The Secretary of State has delegated the NHS Litigation Authority to hear appeals concerning PCTs' decisions.

Once included on the list, NHS suppliers of appliances must comply with the relevant terms of service. These are set out in Schedule 3 to the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/641), as amended.

Our consultation 'Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths, Delivering the Future—Proposals for Legislative Change' included proposals to amend the current legislation concerning entry to the NHS market for suppliers of appliances. That consultation closed on 20 November 2008. We will decide what further steps are appropriate after full consideration of the responses received.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposal to require dispensing appliance contractors to provide a home delivery service will apply in circumstances where the contractors would be providing such a service at a financial loss; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [241126]

Phil Hope: The last consultation relating to the Part IX review—'Proposed New Arrangements Under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the Provision of Stoma and Urology Appliances—and Related Services—in Primary Care', which closed in September 2008—sought views on a number of proposed new arrangements, including a proposal regarding payment by way of fees for the home delivery of certain items if patients so required and the provision, where necessary, of a reasonable supply of complimentary wipes and disposal bags with certain items.

In responding to the consultation, views were expressed by some dispensing contractors as to the affordability of these proposals. These responses will be taken into account.

Locums

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hours worked by locums in the NHS in each of the last five years at *(a)* the grade of the locum, *(b)* a grade below that of the locum and *(c)* a grade above that of the locum. [241684]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what rate a locum covering a job below his or her grade is paid. [241785]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made by the Neonatal Taskforce; and if he will make a statement. [240706]

Ann Keen: The Neonatal Taskforce, chaired by NHS Medical Director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, has met on five occasions. Four working groups have been established to take forward the key areas of data for commissioning, workforce, transfers and surgery, and are currently developing the quality standards and toolkits required for a comprehensive neonatal service.

Progress has been made within the Northern and Essex regions in developing a formal managed clinical network for neonatology. Networks are continuing to develop their specialist neonatal transfer services with the aim to ensure 24-hour seven-day-a-week access. Further progress is required and is being worked towards.

MRSA: Screening

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects MRSA screening for all elective patients to be in place by March 2009. [240911]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of progress made towards meeting his Department's target for all elective admissions to hospitals to be screened for MRSA by March 2009; and what steps he takes to monitor such progress. [240741]

Ann Keen: The Department has issued guidance covering methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) screening and expects all trusts to be screening relevant elective patients from April 2009 when our national commitment commences.

The Department has a temporary national screening data collection system providing information on screening activity. This system is monitored to assess progress.

The national health service is expected to have appropriate local assurances in place from April 2009 to ensure screening is taking place.

Neurofibromatosis

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2100-1W, on neurofibromatosis, what treatments for neurofibromatosis are available on the National Health Service. [240735]

Ann Keen: There is currently no cure for neurofibromatosis, however the national health service is able to provide treatments for some of the complications of this distressing condition. Neurofibromas in awkward or unsightly positions can sometimes be removed surgically, and pain relief is available.

The full range of NHS health and social care is available for those with specific complications which may include learning difficulties, behavioural problems, high blood pressure, epilepsy and hearing and speech problems.

NHS: Occupational Health

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* commencement and *(b)* completion dates are for the three healthy organisations pilots on health and well-being of NHS staff. [240379]

Ann Keen: The 'Creating a Healthier NHS' pilot scheme was launched in July 2008. The scheme will run for two years completing in June 2010.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the Local Involvement Networks which are operational. [241424]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations *(a)* collect and *(b)* collate data on serious untoward incidents in the NHS. [241145]

Ann Keen: Serious Untoward Incidents data are collected and collated by trusts, strategic health authorities and the National Patient Safety Agency.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent nurses were employed within the NHS in each year since 1996. [241049]

Ann Keen: The number of full-time equivalent nurses (including practice nurses) from 1996 are given in the following table:

	Number
1996	257,891
1997	256,093
1998	257,597
1999	261,340
2000	266,987
2001	277,334
2002	291,285
2003	304,892
2004	315,440
2005	321,537
2006	322,062
2007	322,182

Ophthalmic Services: Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of NHS ophthalmic services was in each region in the last 12 months. [240572]

Ann Keen: Expenditure data relating to 'Problems of Vision', covering both primary and secondary care services, are collected as part of the annual programme budgeting returns to the Department by primary care trusts. Programme budgeting data for 2007-08 are due to be collected from primary care trusts during December 2008 and therefore are not currently available.

Patients: Safety

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents of each type, classified as causing *(a)* no harm, *(b)* low harm, *(c)* moderate harm, *(d)* severe harm and *(e)* death, were recorded in each NHS trust in each quarter since the inception of the national reporting and learning system. [240531]

Ann Keen: As a consequence of national health service reconfigurations over the past five years, the information requested is not currently available. The regular National Reporting and Learning System Quarterly Data Summaries from the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) provide a breakdown for incidents in England and Wales by degree of harm and incident type, for a range of care settings.

In addition, from February 2009 the NPSA will be publishing NHS trust level data, including a breakdown by incident type and degree of harm.

Pharmacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmacies there were in England on 31 March 2008. [240724]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of community pharmacies is collected by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and published in the 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2007-08'. Table 4a, of the bulletin states that in 2007-08 there were 10,291 community pharmacies in contract with the national health service in England.

Copies of the latest bulletin have been placed in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-in-england-and-wales-1998-99-to-2007-08.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure of the Public Health Leadership Forum for Pharmacy was in financial year 2007-08. [240918]

Phil Hope: The expenditure incurred for the Public Health Leadership Forum for Pharmacy for 2007-08 was £881, which relates to travel expenses and locum costs for some forum members.

Pharmacy: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent progress has his Department made in the development of new qualifications for pharmacy support staff; and if he will make a statement; [240704]

(2) what his policy is on revision of the national occupational standards in pharmacy; and if he will make a statement. [240920]

Phil Hope: The project to revise the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for pharmacy and, from these, develop new qualifications for pharmacy support is being taken forward by Skills for Health, the Sector Skills Council for health in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The project is funded via the United Kingdom Commission for Employment and Skills.

The project has reviewed the original occupational standards in pharmacy and produced 26 contemporary NOS. In addition, six new NOS have been developed.

The new qualifications at level 2 and level 3 for pharmacy support staff will reflect the updated NOS and are intended to be consistent with both the new qualification framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland—the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)—and the existing framework in Scotland. The new qualifications will be developed by autumn 2009.

The pharmacy White Paper 'Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future' (Cm 7341) states in paragraph 7.44 that the Government will consider what further training may be required to enable pharmacy technicians to supervise certain aspects of the sale or supply of medicine as envisaged by the Health Act 2006.

Prostate Cancer

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the first prostate cancer training courses resulting from the work of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust have been delivered. [240916]

Ann Keen: Leeds Teaching Hospitals national health service trust will run the first pilot prostate cancer multidisciplinary team surgical master class by early March 2009.

Radiography: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in the project to introduce virtual skills training for student therapeutic radiographers; and if he will make a statement. [240903]

Ann Keen: There are 10 universities providing therapeutic radiographer training and the virtual environment for radiotherapy training has been installed in 26 radiotherapy departments based in national health service trusts. A further eight installations are planned during 2009, and six trusts are awaiting suitable accommodation to become available.

Radiotherapy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Commissioning Group commissions proton therapy for suitable cancers other than eye cancers from overseas suppliers. [240905]

Ann Keen: The National Commissioning Group commissions proton beam therapy for all suitable cancers identified on the high priority list produced by the National Radiography Advisory Group in 2007. A clinical reference panel advises on each individual referred case and its suitability for treatment from overseas providers.

Social Services: Registration

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce his decision on the inclusion of other social care workers on the register of the General Social Care Council. [241268]

Phil Hope: The Department remains convinced of the important role that the registration of home care workers can play in public protection and raising quality within the sector. We need to do this in a way that does not create unnecessary burdens, is cost effective and is based on best available evidence as to what works. The Department is currently in discussion with the General Social Care Council on how best to achieve this. Further announcements will be made in due course.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of all guidance distributed to local councils and other bodies on procurement for the Building Schools for the Future programme. [240593]

Jim Knight: All procurement guidance for local authorities for Building Schools for the Future is available on the Partnerships for Schools website:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/library.jsp.

These documents are updated regularly and the website is the recommended best source. Officials do not provide copies to the Library to ensure no out-of-date material is available.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority provide wraparound school care. [241629]

Beverley Hughes: We do not collect information centrally on the number of schools providing wraparound care. We do, however, have information on the number of schools providing access to the full core offer of extended services in England. This includes access to a varied menu of activities, combined with child care in primary schools, from 8 am to 6 pm and during school holidays where there is demand. The list providing details of the number of schools in each local authority that are providing access to the core offer of extended services has been placed in both libraries. This shows that there are 14,750 extended schools which represents around 67 per cent. of all maintained schools.

There are many other schools which are already providing parts of the core offer, including child care and a varied menu of activities, and developing access to other services which are not yet included in these figures.

We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010.

Classroom Assistants: Conditions of Employment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* pay, *(b)* conditions and *(c)* pensions and other benefits are stipulated in legislation for classroom assistants; and what such categories will be stipulated in statute if the proposals announced in the Queen's Speech were enacted. [240611]

Jim Knight: There is currently no national pay structure stipulated within legislation to cover support staff (including classroom assistants) who are employed to work in local authority maintained schools. Decisions on pay and conditions and other benefits are taken at local level. However, support staff employed in local authority maintained schools have access to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill will include a provision to establish the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB). The remit of the SSSNB, also to be set out within the Bill, will be to negotiate and reach agreement on matters that will be referred to the Secretary of State relating to *(a)* the remuneration of school support staff and *(b)* the conditions of employment relating to the duties or working time of school support staff.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* hospitality and *(c)* advertising in 2007-08. [240605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not centrally hold information on how much each of its non-departmental public bodies spends on entertainment, hospitality and advertising. This information can be gathered from each individual body only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of people who are no longer in education or training as a result of the delay in making education maintenance allowance payments. [240615]

Jim Knight: We have no evidence that delay in making Education Maintenance Allowance payments has resulted in a drop in the overall numbers of people participating in education or training.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1836W, on the education maintenance allowance, how many students had *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance, *(b)* successfully enrolled and *(c)* received at least one payment by (i) November 2006 and (ii) November 2007. [241515]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what sanctions he plans to impose on Liberata for failing to make education maintenance allowance payments on time; and if he will make a statement; [241619]

(2) how many people enrolled on an entry to employment programme have had education maintenance allowance payments delayed because of technical problems; and if he will make a statement. [241631]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the interim learning providers' portal used in the administration of the Education Maintenance Allowance; and if he will make a statement. [241705]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Educational Institutions: Regulation

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the number of unregulated and unregistered educational institutions in England used by local education authorities. [241870]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local authorities to commission education provision from public and private sector providers and we understand that the nature of this provision varies from full-time provision to a few hours of supplementary services per week.

Gifted Children: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on programmes for gifted and talented young people in each financial year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [241634]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Member to the reply given to him on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 202W.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained schools are offering *(a)* the international baccalaureate and *(b)* the pre-U examination in 2008-09. [240629]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold this information.

Maintained schools are free to offer whatever qualifications they consider appropriate to their students' learning, provided these qualifications are approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Details of all schools and colleges offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) can be found on the IB website at:

www.ibo.org

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authorities will be required under the primary capital programme to reduce primary pupil places across the whole authority as a condition of spending the funding awarded under the programme. [241205]

Jim Knight: There is no such condition. Prior to agreeing funding for the Primary Capital Programme, we asked each local authority to develop Primary Strategies for Change in consultation with local stakeholders setting out how the programme will support national policies and local priorities. We release funding to each authority once we are satisfied with its Strategy for Change. We issued guidance on the content of strategies for change on 6 December last year.

Among other things, the guidance made clear our expectation that local authorities should review overall provision taking into account demographic change and parental preference. However, responsibility for balancing the demand and supply of places is a matter for local determination.

Primary Education: Stoke-on-Trent

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what conditions apply to the award of £10.7 million to Stoke-on-Trent under the primary capital programme. [240308]

Jim Knight: To access the funding earmarked for the delivery of the Primary Capital Programme, Stoke-on-Trent was asked to develop a Primary Strategy for Change, setting out how the programme will support national and local priorities. Following assessment against the guidance issued on 6 December the authority has been notified that its strategy has been approved with modification. This means that it was judged to be generally sound but further information/reassurance is required on how the programme will transform school standards. This includes;

The approach on suitability and accessibility issues in schools

The plans for schools not reaching floor targets

The relationship between the design of schools and

The role of technology in raising standards

The need for a proactive approach in driving through change in governance arrangements where there is very poor performance

The Department has committed to working with Stoke-on-Trent to resolve these issues quickly, prior to resubmission by the end of March 2009.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been issued by his Department to *(a)* schools and *(b)* Ofsted on training of school staff relating to children with diabetes; and if he will place copies of such guidance in the Library. [241492]

Jim Knight: This Department issued, in 2005, guidance entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'. This guidance was published jointly with the Department of Health, and specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions.

The guidance contains information on putting arrangements in place for dealing with emergency situations, including when to call an ambulance. However, it is for schools and local authorities to set their own policy, including the training needs of staff, taking into account local needs and resources. They should work with local health services to support pupils with medical conditions, including diabetes.

This Department has not issued guidance on this matter to Ofsted.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there were in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in each local authority area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [241854]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Buildings

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are currently being taught in temporary facilities. [240594]

Jim Knight: Data on school temporary buildings were supplied to the Department by local education authorities in 2001, 2003 and 2005. However, the data did not show numbers of pupils taught in those buildings. Furthermore, checks indicated that the completeness and quality of the data was not good enough for accurate analysis.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-09 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Schools: National Challenge

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have been removed from the National Challenge as a consequence of their 2008 GCSE results. [241869]

Jim Knight: Final validated GCSE results for 2008 are not yet available. However, support under the National Challenge is flexible and is not confined to schools currently with fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils gaining five A*-C including English and Mathematics. The programme also supports schools deemed to be at risk of falling below this threshold.

Individual local authorities will shortly publish their plans for all schools who are being supported by National Challenge so that local parents can see details of the proposed support.

Schools: Vetting

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications his Department and its predecessor sent to each of the schools inspectorates under the automatic transfer arrangements in relation to *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools in each year since April 2005; and how many notifications his Department and its predecessor received from independent and grant maintained schools in each such year. [241493]

Jim Knight: To date, the Department has referred 84 notifications to the Schools Inspectorates since April 2005 relating to individuals who resigned or were dismissed from independent schools because they were considered unsuitable to work with children. Details are given in the following tables. In the case of maintained schools, Ofsted can approach the local authority concerned in respect of notifications from its schools.

Referrals to inspectorates

Inspectorate	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
ISI	5	27	17	15	64
Ofsted	2	4	7	7	20
CSCI[1]	2	4	1	0	7

[1] The seven referrals made to the former Commission for Social Care Inspection (now Ofsted) were also referred to the relevant education inspectorate and are thus included in the totals for ISI and Ofsted.

Under the new Vetting and Barring Scheme a supervisory authority such as Ofsted will be required to inform the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) if it has information that a person poses a risk of harm. In return, ISA must inform them when it bars someone who is supervised or registered by them.

Where employers (including independent schools) in the education sector have ceased to use the services of a person because they consider that person is unsuitable to work with children, or they would have ceased to use the person's services where the person has left their employment, they are required to refer information to the Department. In addition, the Police refer to the Department cautions and convictions for those who have been working in educational establishments in accordance with Home Office Circular 6/2006 (The Notifiable Occupations Scheme). Identifying how many referrals and letters of notification were received from (i) state maintained and (ii) independent schools would require detailed checks to be made of individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a list of *(a)* schools and *(b)* school consortia offering the 14-19 diplomas, listing (i) which diplomas are being offered and (ii) how many pupils are entered for them in each case. [240632]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the diploma lines being offered in 2008 by consortia. We do not have the other information requested.

		Lines delivered n 2008				
LA name	*Consortium name*	*CBE*	*C and M*	*ENG*	*IT*	*SHD*
Barnsley LA	Barnsley Diploma Consortia	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Newcastle upon Tyne LA	Newcastle City Consortium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waltham Forest LA	London Borough of Waltham Forest	—	Yes	—	—	—
Lincolnshire LA	Lincolnshire Wolds	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Halton LA	Halton 14-19 Strategic Partnership	Yes	—	—	—	—
East Sussex LA	Hastings and Rother Local Area Partnership Board	—	—	—	Yes	—
Sheffield LA	Sheffield 14-19 Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Norfolk LA	Norwich City (OpenOpportunity)	Yes	Yes	—	—	—
Oxfordshire LA	West Oxfordshire Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Blackburn with Darwen LA	Blackburn with Darwen 14-19 Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Kirklees LA	Kirklees Collegiate	—	Yes	—	—	Yes
City of Plymouth LA	City of Plymouth 14-19 Diploma Partnership	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes
Nottinghamshire LA	Bassetlaw 14-19 Consortium	Yes	—	—	—	—
Oxfordshire LA	East Oxon 14-19 Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Nottinghamshire LA	Newark and Sherwood ASG	—	Yes	—	—	—
North Tyneside LA	North Tyneside 14-19 Learning Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dorset LA	Central Dorset Partnership	Yes	—	—	—	—
Bury LA	Bury Learning Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Staffordshire LA	Chase Collegiate	—	—	—	Yes	—
Staffordshire LA	East Staffs 14-19 Collegiate	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
City of Derby LA	Derby City — North West	—	—	Yes		—

		Lines delivered n 2008				
LA name	*Consortium name*	*CBE*	*C and M*	*ENG*	*IT*	*SHD*
Tower Hamlets LA	The Hub	—	—	—	Yes	—
Hertfordshire LA	Dacorum Strategic Area Partnership Group	—	Yes	—	Yes	—
Manchester LA	Manchester	Yes	Yes	—	Yes	—
Cambridgeshire LA	Cambridge 14-19 Area Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Knowsley LA	Knowsley 14-19 Partnership	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Trafford LA	Trafford 14-19 Consortium	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes
Kent LA	Thanet 14 -19 Consortium	—	—	—	—	Yes
North Somerset LA	North Somerset Consortium	—	Yes	—	Yes	—
Hartlepool LA	Hartlepool 14-19 Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Liverpool LA	Liverpool	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barking and Dagenham LA	Barking and Dagenham	—	Yes	Yes		Yes
Rochdale LA	Rochdale Consortium	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Cheshire LA	East Cheshire 14-19 Diploma Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Brighton and Hove LA	Brighton and Howe 14-19 Partnership Board	—	—	—	—	Yes
Norfolk LA	Extended Rural Norfolk Federation	Yes	—	—	—	—
Croydon LA	Croydon Consortium	Yes	—	—	—	—
Hounslow LA	Hounslow 14-19 Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	
Leeds LA	Leeds Diplomas	Yes	—	—	—	
Bradford LA	Bradford Confederations	—	Yes	—	—	—
Sunderland LA	Sunderland 14-19 Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	—
Birmingham LA	South Network	—	Yes	—	—	—
City of Nottingham LA	Nottingham City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haringey LA	The Haringey 14-19 Partnership	Yes	—	—	—	—
Lancashire LA	Burnley and Pendle	—	Yes	—	—	—
Milton Keynes LA	Milton Keynes	Yes	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire LA	West Wilts Federation	—	Yes	—	—	—
Salford LA	Salford	—	Yes	—	—	—
Lewisham LA	Lewisham 14-19 Partnership	—	—	—	Yes	—
Islington LA	Islington 14-19 Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	Yes
St. Helens LA	St. Helens Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Worcestershire LA	ContinU	Yes	—	—	—	—
Torbay LA	Torbay 14-19 Learning Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Cheshire LA	Crewe and Nantwich	—	—	Yes		Yes
Hackney LA	Hackney Diploma 2009 Consortium	Yes	Yes	—	—	Yes
Surrey LA	Elmbridge 14-19 Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Nottinghamshire LA	Mansfield Learning Partnership	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
Lincolnshire LA	Lincolnshire South Holland	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
Hertfordshire LA	North Hertfordshire Strategic Area Partnership Group	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coventry LA	Coventry North West Federation	—	—	Yes	—	—
Ealing LA	West London Consortium	Yes	Yes	—	—	—
Wandsworth LA	14-19 Partnership	—	—	—	—	Yes
Medway LA	Medway	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kent LA	Dover Deal and Sandwich Collegiate	—	—	—	—	Yes
Cambridgeshire LA	HSEP	—	Yes	—	—	—
Birmingham LA	Birmingham South West Collegiate: Lordswood Girls'	—	—	Yes	—	—
Worcestershire LA	Forward Consortium	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Kingston upon Hull LA	Hull 14-19 Partnership	—	—	—	Yes	—
Calderdale LA	Campus Calderdale	—	Yes	—	—	Yes
Northamptonshire LA	East Northamptonshire Partnership	—	Yes	Yes	—	Yes
Reading	Reading and Central Berkshire Consortium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lancashire LA	Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribble Valley	—	Yes	—	—	—
Oldham LA	OLLP—Business	Yes	Yes	—	—	—
Surrey LA	Surrey Heath	—	—	—	Yes	Yes
Hampshire LA	Basingstoke 14-19 Consortium	Yes	—	—	—	—
West Sussex LA	Area B	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
Coventry LA	Coventry North East Federation	—	—	Yes	—	—
Lambeth LA	LCm the Lambeth Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
City of York LA	City of York Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	Yes
Somerset LA	Sedgemoor	—	Yes	—	—	—
Sefton LA	North Sefton	—	—	—	—	Yes
Swindon LA	Swindon 14-19 Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	—
Hampshire LA	Rushmoor and Hart	—	—	—	Yes	—

		Lines delivered n 2008				
LA name	*Consortium name*	*CBE*	*C and M*	*ENG*	*IT*	*SHD*
Kent LA	Gravesham 14-19 Consortium	Yes	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire LA	Ashfield District ASG	Yes	—	—	Yes	—
Surrey LA	Guildford 14-19 Partnerships	—	Yes	—	—	—
Hillingdon LA	The Hillingdon Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Wolverhampton LA	Wolverhampton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Sussex LA	Eastbourne and Hailsham Federation	Yes		Yes	—	—
Surrey LA	Spelthorne	—	Yes	Yes	—	—
Dorset LA	North Dorset	—	—	—	Yes	—
Hammersmith and Fulham LA	Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	Yes	—
Lincolnshire LA	Sleaford	—	—	—	—	Yes
South Gloucestershire LA	Kingswood Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oxfordshire LA	North Oxfordshire 14-19 Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Rotherham LA	Rotherham 14-19 Partnership	Yes	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire LA	Grantham Partnership	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Lincolnshire LA	Lincolnshire East Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Dorset LA	Chesil Education Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Middlesbrough LA	Middlesbrough Learning Partnership	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
Warrington LA	Warrington 14-19 Partnership	—	—	—	—	Yes
Dudley LA	The Halesowen Education Trust	—	Yes	—	—	Yes
Lancashire LA	Lancaster and Morecambe	—	Yes	—	—	
Newham LA	14-19 Newham Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shropshire LA	North West Shropshire	—	—	—	Yes	—
Stoke on Trent LA	Stoke-on-Trent 14-19 Collegiate	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cumbria LA	Furness 14-19 Partnership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hampshire LA	Eastleigh Consortium	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
Southwark LA	Southwark Guarantee	—	Yes	Yes	—	—
Northamptonshire LA	Northampton Town	—	—	—	—	Yes
Birmingham LA	Birmingham North Area Network	Yes	—	Yes	—	—
East Sussex LA	Western Coastal Local Area Partnership Board	Yes	—	—	—	—
Bolton LA	Bolton LA Consortia	Yes	—	Yes	—	Yes
West Sussex LA	West Sussex Area A	Yes	—	—	—	—
Suffolk LA	North Suffolk Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
Surrey LA	Woking Federation	Yes	—	—	—	—
Harrow LA	Harrow Collegiate	—	Yes	—	—	—
Buckinghamshire LA	Wycombe Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Luton LA	Campus Luton Partnership	—	—	—	Yes	—
North East Lincolnshire LA	14-19 Learning Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	—
East Sussex LA	Lewes Local Area Partnership Board	Yes	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire LA	North West Leicestershire	—	—	Yes	—	—
East Sussex LA	Lewes Rural Local Area Partnership Board	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wakefield LA	Wakefield Hair and Beauty Group	Yes	—	—	—	—
Gateshead LA	Gateshead 14-19 Partnership	—	—	Yes	—	Yes
Leicestershire LA	Melton and Belvoir	—	Yes	Yes	—	—
Tameside LA	Tameside Diploma Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Cheshire LA	Vale Royal Diploma Consortium	—	Yes	—	—	—
Hertfordshire LA	S.E. Herts. Strategic Area Partnership Group	—	—	Yes	Yes	Yes
Staffordshire LA	Tamworth Partnership	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
North Yorkshire LA	Ryedale Area Learning Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Oxfordshire LA	Ridgeway	—	—	Yes	—	—
Solihull LA	Solihull Consortium	—	—	—	Yes	—
Gloucestershire LA	Cheltenham Partnership	—	—	—	Yes	—
Lancashire LA	Chorley and South Ribble	—	—	Yes	—	—
Derbyshire LA	Ripley and Heanor Learning Community	—	—	—	Yes	—
Lincolnshire LA	Boston	—	—	Yes	—	—
Birmingham LA	Central Network	—	Yes	—	—	—
Kent LA	Dartford Wilmington	Yes	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire LA	Kettering Learning Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Rutland LA	Rutland 14-19: Partnership	—	Yes	—	—	—
Southend-on-Sea LA	Southend	—	Yes	—	—	—
Bromley LA	The Bromley 14-19 Collaborative	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Cornwall LA	Cornwall Collegiate	—	Yes	—	—	—
Durham LA	Derwentside Consortium	—	—	Yes	—	—
Walsall LA	Walsall Consortium	—	Yes	—	—	—

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1011-12W, on specialised diplomas, how many people who embarked on a diploma course in each local authority embarked on a *(a)* foundation, *(b)* higher and *(c)* advanced level. [240796]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of diploma learners by level in each local authority involved in delivery from 2008.

Local authority	*Level learners*	*Level 2 learners*	*Level 3 learners*
Barking and Dagenham	22	40	15
Barnsley	5	51	23
Birmingham	46	148	22
Blackburn with Darwen	0	6	0
Bolton	43	56	14
Bradford	0	51	26
Brighton and Hove	10	23	6
Bromley	64	110	24
Buckinghamshire	8	37	0
Bury	0	31	15
Calderdale	34	74	0
Cambridgeshire	0	51	16
Cheshire	30	125	14
Cornwall	9	130	26
Coventry	9	96	0
Croydon	8	20	0
Cumbria	9	78	31
Derby	10	17	0
Derbyshire	7	86	7
Dorset	21	36	8
Dudley	0	85	54
Durham	0	10	0
Ealing	24	20	18
East Sussex	102	199	41
Gateshead	0	39	10
Gloucestershire	0	20	0
Hackney	23	109	9
Halton	12	13	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	32	19
Hampshire	16	113	27
Haringey	10	16	0
Harrow	0	6	0
Hartlepool	11	19	0
Hertfordshire	122	352	107
Hillingdon	0	0	16
Hounslow	2	49	0
Hull (Kingston Upon)	5	62	16
Islington	0	71	18
Kent	16	109	30
Kirklees	16	55	0
Knowsley	28	14[illegible]	22
Lambeth (joint Southwark)	42	154	11
Lancashire	18	82	0
Leeds	21	71	30
Leicestershire	33	78	8
Lewisham	0	29	0
Lincolnshire	43	376	56
Liverpool	19	114	112
Luton	0	15	8
Manchester	87	78	7
Medway	39	176	104
Middlesbrough	27	67	31
Milton Keynes	35	10	0
Newcastle Upon Tyne	115	97	70
Newham	181	268	120
Norfolk	91	102	38
North East Lincolnshire	0	18	0
North Somerset	0	121	11
North Tyneside	19	65	28
North Yorkshire	0	20	0
Northamptonshire	3	114	0
Nottingham City	94	94	53
Nottinghamshire	25	101	5
Oldham	26	22	27
Oxfordshire	82	61	0
Plymouth City	15	109	36
Reading	84	117	113
Rochdale	0	54	38
Rotherham	6	54	0
Rutland	0	49	0
Salford	24	116	20
Sefton	0	11	11
Sheffield	7	144	22
Shropshire	0	18	0
Solihull	0	48	14
Somerset	21	55	0
South Gloucestershire	54	365	6
Southend-on-Sea	4	32	0
Southwark	12	16	21
St. Helens	0	17	0
Staffordshire	0	109	0
Stoke on Trent	52	118	51
Suffolk	16	15	9
Sunderland	0	145	0
Surrey	33	112	16
Swindon	30	88	71
Tameside	9	18	16
Torbay	9	88	18
Tower Hamlets	40	14	12
Trafford	29	112	0
Wakefield	0	5	0
Walsall	0	52	0
Waltham Forest	0	35	0
Wandsworth	0	17	0
Warrington	0	27	27
West Sussex	12	25	9
Wiltshire	16	67	0
Wolverhampton	71	160	70
Worcestershire	43	72	11
York City	24	128	53

Specialised Diplomas: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils eligible for free school meals are studying for the 14-19 diplomas. [240616]

Jim Knight: In summer 2009 we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for Diplomas, broken down by gender and free school meals for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils studying for the 14-19 diplomas are eligible for free school meals. [240617]

Jim Knight: In summer 2009 we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for Diplomas, broken down by gender and free school meals for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

Teachers: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost to local authorities was of teachers' *(a)* absence and *(b)* sick leave in each of the last five years. [240608]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The number of teaching days taken as sickness absence by full and part-time teachers in England in the calendar years 2000 to 2007 can be found in Table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Releases, January 2008 (Revised) at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

Teachers: Male

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants in (i) primary, (ii) maintained secondary, (iii) pupil referral units and (iv) special schools are male. [240636]

Jim Knight: Figures for the number of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools by phase, grade and gender, January 1997 to 2006 are published in table D2 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2007 (Revised) at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/sQ00743/Addition_D_DOU.xls

March 2007 figures will be available on the 11 December.

This table provides pupil referral units and special schools together and these can not be provided separately.

Information on the gender of teaching assistants is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Part-time Employment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration his Department gives when issuing guidance to the time teachers will be required to spend familiarising themselves with new information. [241871]

Jim Knight: To be familiar with current guidance, and to take account of changes to it, is a routine part of any job. In this regard teaching is no different to any profession.

In developing guidance, the Department always prioritises the impact on front line staff.

We aim to ensure guidance is:

(a) as straightforward as possible;

(b) has been consulted on and/or discussed with our Social Partners, and/or the Implementation Review Unit where appropriate;

so as to minimise any burden on the work force and maximise the effectiveness of the guidance.

Teachers: Retirement

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in the maintained sector will reach retirement age in each of the next five years. [240598]

Jim Knight: Under the Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) regulations there is no fixed retirement age. There is a normal pension age of 60, or 65 for new entrants from 1 January 2007, but teachers may retire with employer agreement from age 50 under the premature retirement arrangements, 55 under the actuarially reduced pension arrangements and from age 60 or 65 under normal age retirement. Teachers can continue to contribute to the TPS until age 75.

The following table provides an estimate of the number of full-time qualified regular teachers in service in England in 2007, broken down by age from 55, (i.e. five years before the normal pension age of 60). This is the latest information available.

Full-time regular qualified teachers broken down by age. Coverage: England—2007, provisional

Age	*Number*
Under 55	321,200
56	11,500
57	10,300
58	9,000
59	7,000
60	5,600
61	2,800
62	1,100
63	700
64	400
65	300
65 and over	200
Total	370,100

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g, and Database of Teacher Records.

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the cost to his predecessor department of preparing the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 549-52W, on GCSE. [241663]

Jim Knight: Our records do not state the time spent preparing the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 549-52W.

However, a good estimate would be six and a half hours (approximately £180).

Young People: Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on reducing obesity levels among persons aged under 16 years; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [241140]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives strategy sets out what the Government will do to reduce obesity but also calls on all parts of society to act. Schools have a vital part to play in helping children achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The Department has made available guidance and resources to help schools provide a healthy environment by providing nutritious school lunches, improving participation in high quality PE and sport opportunities, helping children learn about health through personal, social, health and economic education and practical activities such as cooking. Guidance and support is also provided to the 90 per cent. of schools that are currently participating in the national healthy schools programme, which promotes a whole-school approach to health, for example Guidance for Schools on Healthy Eating, and Physical Activity Guidance. Guidance from this Department and the Department of Health is issued to schools on how they can support the National Child Measurement Programme, which collects essential height and weight data on primary school pupils in Reception and Year 6.

DCSF and DH Secretaries of State recently met with a diverse coalition of people including parents, nongovernmental organisations, supermarkets and representatives of the food industry who have agreed to join the Change4Life movement. Change4Life will create an unprecedented coalition for better health which will help families to eat well, move more and live longer.

Young People: Refuges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will fund an increase in emergency refuge accommodation for young people in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [240491]

Beverley Hughes: The provision of emergency accommodation for young people who need it is the responsibility of local authorities. Support services for runaways should be determined and run through local children's trusts and other stakeholders, according to local service needs. Where local partners agree that a refuge is a useful and appropriate form of emergency accommodation provision in their area, it is our expectation that this is funded by the relevant local authorities.

In order to support local authority children's services in their provision of emergency accommodation my Department is funding research which will identify successful and cost effective commissioning models using services provided by the voluntary sector, and by helping commissioners at every level understand more about young people's perceptions of different models of emergency accommodation.

In 2008-09, my Department will also be providing £114,500 to the St. Christopher's Fellowship, which runs the London Refuge, in the form of a development grant to help them find more sustainable forms of funding.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information

12. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's policy on freedom of information. [240236]

Mr. Wills: The Government believe the Freedom of Information Act has been effective legislation in improving the scrutiny and accountability of government. They keep their implementation under constant review to ensure its effectiveness.

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next plans to review the guidance issued by his Department to public authorities on their duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [240241]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice published updated guidance on its website in May 2008 to assist public authorities in handling Freedom of Information requests. This guidance will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

Community Sentences

13. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to promote the more effective use of community sentences by judges and magistrates. [240237]

Mr. Hanson: The Government want community sentences to be tough, effective and visible. That is why we announced on 1 December 2008 that that all offenders performing unpaid work as part of a community order must wear high visibility jackets with the distinctive logo 'community payback'.

We are also promoting the intensive delivery of community sentences which can include punishments such as curfew and Community Payback as well as positive measures like drug treatment.

Public Office: Misconduct

14. **Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the common law offence of misconduct in a public office. [240238]

19. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the common law offence of misconduct in a public office. [240243]

24. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the common law offence of misconduct in a public office. [240248]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Members for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge), New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne), Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) and the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay) during Justice oral questions.

Child Protection Court Fees

15. **Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the increase in child protection court fees paid by local authorities. [240239]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him during Justice Topical questions earlier today.

Custody Licence Scheme

16. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the custody licence scheme to end. [240240]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence scheme was introduced as a temporary measure. We are working extremely hard to expand capacity in prisons. The moment I judge it is safe and operationally sustainable to so do, we will end ECL.

Family Courts

20. **John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to increase transparency and accountability in the family courts. [240244]

Bridget Prentice: This is an important area of policy about which people have strong views, and one that we are examining with care and consideration. That is why we have consulted twice on how we could improve transparency in family courts. The response paper to the last consultation, including further details of the pilot to provide written judgments when a final order is made in family cases, will be published soon and details of it will be announced to Parliament.

Parliamentary Privilege

21. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals further to define in statute the law relating to parliamentary privilege. [240245]

Mr. Straw: I have no plans to do so.

Prisoners

22. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with HM Prison Service on increasing the amount of purposeful activity for prisoners. [240246]

23. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with HM Prison Service on increasing the amount of purposeful activity for prisoners. [240247]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to increasing the amount and quality of purposeful activity in prisons, by:

The expansion and further development of links with private sector employers to increase the range of constructive work and training available to prisoners;

The delivery of a comprehensive range of interventions designed to address offending behaviour;

An improvement in the quality of prison education provision.

Prison Places

25. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the Government's policy on provision of prison places. [240249]

Mr. Hanson: I keep the progress of the prison capacity building programme under review. I have had discussions with interested parties in developing specific prison capacity projects and with officials on the progress of the capacity building programme.

Sentencing

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to give greater publicity to deterrent sentences handed down by the courts. [240242]

Maria Eagle: My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Straw) has announced our intention to publish the final outcome of criminal court hearings on the internet. This will be a positive measure to enable local communities to know what is happening in their courts. Of course sentencing in individual cases, and the extent to which that is deterrent, is a matter for the court.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 252-53W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library the figures for 2007-08. [241711]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The MOD Government Carbon Offsetting Fund air travel figures have been placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what offences women were being detained in prison on 1 April in each year since 1997; and how many were being detained for each category of offence in each such year; [241285]

(2) what offences men were being detained in prison on 1 April in each year since 1997; and how many men were being detained for each such category of offence in each such year. [241286]

Mr. Hanson: The table shows the number of males and females detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales[1] by offence group as at the end of June in each year since 1997.

The figures for 1997-2007 can be found in table 7.2 of the recently published Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library and at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The figures for 2008 can be found in table 2 of the Population in Custody monthly brief for June 2008 which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

England and Wales 30 June

Number of persons

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]
Male												
Remand	11,518	12,168	11,837	10,764	10,288	12,083	12,001	11,544	11,863	12,165	11,953	12,566
Violence against the person	2,114	2,215	2,126	2,012	2,035	2,411	2,403	2,579	2,753	2,981	2,970	3,280
Sexual offences	625	754	695	581	489	587	556	616	762	886	775	911
Robbery	1,158	951	1,126	982	867	1,304	1,157	1,130	1,049	1,248	1,296	1,331
Burglary	2,382	2,202	2,366	1,882	1,634	1,914	1,850	1,451	1,437	1,342	1,374	1,455
Theft and handling	1,576	1,849	1,590	1,640	1,500	1,687	1,580	1,235	1,187	1,093	950	930
Fraud and forgery	202	177	185	146	167	191	207	267	463	415	453	398
Drug offences	1,296	1,617	1,564	1,430	1,320	1,360	1,374	1,310	1,627	1,407	1,647	1,708
Motoring offences	329	294	298	280	353	386	409	308	246	224	140	127
Other offences	1,321	1,586	1,372	1,362	1,187	1,397	1,463	1,604	1,687	1,868	1,667	1,765
Offence not recorded	515	523	515	448	736	846	1,002	1,044	652	703	681	661
Immediate custodial sentence	46,611	49,793	48,862	50,434	51,272	53,936	55,919	57,475	58,703	59,898	62,188	64,600
Violence against the person	10,033	10,524	10,429	10,807	11,301	11,674	12,480	13,371	14,541	15,537	16,929	18,204
Sexual offences	4,069	4,779	4,929	5,070	5,082	5,270	5,514	5,746	6,146	6,561	7,287	7,569
Robbery	6,277	6,449	6,174	6,158	6,534	7,208	7,879	8,056	8,035	8,100	8,437	8,437
Burglary	7,976	8,538	8,622	8,824	8,416	8,917	8,576	8,396	7,844	7,563	7,723	7,733
Theft and handling	3,929	4,097	4,021	4,537	4,347	4,278	4,157	3,988	3,716	3,691	3,332	3,373
Fraud and forgery	1,104	1,080	993	885	941	921	907	1,021	1,281	1,456	1,512	1,725
Drug offences	6,483	7,099	7,294	7,526	8,010	8,749	8,988	9,252	9,427	9,484	9,569	9,992
Motoring offences	1,887	1,898	1,913	2,291	2,417	2,223	2,630	2,364	2,124	1,887	1,453	1,356
Other offences	3,159	3,310	3,265	3,538	3,386	3,686	3,934	4,522	4,954	5,242	5,598	6,068
Offence not recorded	1,694	2,019	1,222	797	838	1,009	852	759	636	378	348	144
Female												
Remand	587	735	752	669	773	998	1,072	951	1,001	902	891	874
Violence against the person	101	116	105	99	113	132	138	138	150	124	160	165
Sexual offences	4	7	7	7	3	3	4	7	4	11	9	6
Robbery	40	39	41	38	45	104	117	76	61	68	56	64
Burglary	32	42	53	56	68	86	101	75	74	54	49	67
Theft and handling	149	197	214	178	185	276	275	214	169	180	114	124
Fraud and forgery	22	25	21	19	17	24	33	39	96	68	69	79
Drug offences	124	166	168	152	187	174	171	188	203	163	196	144
Motoring offences	6	6	5	6	6	7	12	5	3	3	6	3
Other offences	87	112	127	97	107	122	161	152	167	149	145	138
Offence not recorded	22	25	11	17	43	70	59	56	74	83	87	84

England and Wales 30 June

Number of persons

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]
Immediate custodial sentence	2,063	2,366	2,431	2,659	2,897	3,336	3,474	3,449	3,476	3,506	3,345	3,524
Violence against the person	391	420	429	410	443	538	506	603	638	678	687	775
Sexual offences	8	16	17	20	25	23	26	27	38	37	48	47
Robbery	161	177	157	195	250	314	407	392	343	315	311	295
Burglary	101	118	158	158	154	239	240	247	238	228	197	203
Theft and handling	334	395	390	507	452	461	494	416	410	435	374	462
Fraud and forgery	121	119	111	131	130	119	115	126	173	236	227	295
Drug offences	691	794	875	947	1,137	1,317	1,342	1,235	1,234	1,163	1,044	990
Motoring offences	28	26	21	37	44	36	59	39	39	33	31	22
Other offences	162	191	199	185	200	225	251	320	335	352	392	418
Offence not recorded	66	110	74	69	61	63	35	45	29	30	35	16

[1] Comparisons by offence group with previous years figures should be made with caution due to further quality assurance of the data introduced for June 2005 onwards. The major difference is in the reduction of the 'offence not recorded' category of the remand population.

Prisons: Visitors

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in England and Wales have a visitor centre on site or in the immediate locality; and how many of these centres are managed by the third sector. [240696]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is currently being collated. I will write to the right hon. Member once the information is available and will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Security Guards: Prosecutions

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1301-02W, on the Security Industry Act 2001: Prosecutions, if he will break down the figures for Wales on a sub-regional basis. [241569]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, in Wales, broken down by police force area, 2004 to 2006, can be viewed in the following table.

Data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform cannot be broken down further on a sub regional basis within any part of England and Wales. Police force area data have therefore been provided.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, in Wales, broken down by police force area, 2004[1] to 2006[2, 3]

	Proceeded against			*Found guilty*		
Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	3	1	—	3
Gwent	—	12	27	—	12	12
North Wales	—	—	11	—	—	7
South Wales	—	54	30	—	19	20
Wales	1	66	71	1	31	42

[1] Licensing under the Private Security Industry Act commenced, on a phased basis, in 2004; as a result there is no data from 2001 to 2003.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 December 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Trust Fund: Wansbeck

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in Wansbeck constituency are eligible to receive a £250 voucher to open a child trust fund account; and how many such accounts have been opened by parents or guardians in the last 12 months. [240688]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Constituency level data, including parental account opening figures, on Child Trust Fund accounts was published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf.

Departmental Official Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times he has visited *(a)* the United States, *(b)* Strasbourg, *(c)* the Hague and *(d)* Brussels on official business in the last 12 months. [240737]

Jonathan Shaw: Of the countries mentioned, the Secretary of State has only visited the United States on official business. He went once in March to meet a range of welfare service providers and experts.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many director level posts have been advertised *(a)* internally and *(b)* externally in the last three years. [241581]

Jonathan Shaw: Records of internally and externally advertised director level posts are available and are shown in the following table.

As at April each year	*External posts*	*Internal posts*	*Total*
2005-06	8	6	14
2006-07	10	5	15
2007-08	5	2	7
2008 to date	1	15	16

Note:
The director positions counted for the purpose of this PQ response are SCS pay band 2 and SCS pay band 3 only.

Electronic Government

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to introduce more financial transactional services on the Direct.gov website. [241574]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Service Transformation Agreement, 95 per cent. of citizen facing services are to converge on to Directgov by 2011 and the remainder shortly thereafter. Directgov has a transactions strategy that describes different methods of integrating transactions and, depending on the transaction, the appropriate method will be applied.

A list of financial transactions due to converge on to Directgov and the planned date is as follows:

Money claim online: March 2009
Retirement Age calculator: September 2009
e-BOC (better off calculator): March 2010
About my benefits (My DWP): September 2009
Get a State Pension Forecast (pension estimator): September 2009
Pension credit calculator: September 2009
Tax Return—Self Assessment online: September 2009
Offshore voluntary disclosure: March 2010
SA payment online: March 2010
Company car and fuel benefit calculator: March 2010
National Insurance calculator: March 2010
National Insurance Calculator—Director: March 2010
PA YE tax calculator: March 2010
R85 checker: March 2010
Student tax checker: March 2010
Child Benefit Application: March 2010
Inheritance Tax calculator: March 2010
Taxable value of guaranteed annuity calculator: March 2010
Pay adjustments: March 2010
Lloyds calculator: March 2010
Warm front grant (Registration/application): March 2011
Child Benefit online service—HMRC website: March 2010

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed the effectiveness of the CRM system for Direct.gov. [241575]

Jonathan Shaw: The effectiveness of Directgov's CRM system was reviewed during the first quarter of this year as part of a capability model review. A further review is planned to be carried out during Q2 2009 to ensure that the citizens' needs continue to be met and the CRM remains robust enough to meet the demands of the Government's website convergence programme.

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to integrate the service provided by fixmystreet.com into the service provided by Direct.gov. [241576]

Jonathan Shaw: Starting in January 2009, we will be conducting a trial of a hyperlink between the Directgov website and MySociety's FixMyStreet.com. The trial will run for up to three months, against a set of agreed evaluation criteria, and will allow us to gather evidence of the benefits and issues arising from associations between services of this nature and Government's digital channels. This evidence will be used to inform future development decisions.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unique user visits to the Direct.gov website there have been in each month of 2008. [241578]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov's core usage measure is visits rather than unique users. Monthly visits for 2008 are shown as follows.

	Million visits
January 2008	8.1
February 2008	7.2
March 2008	8.4
April 2008	8.2
May 2008	7.1
June 2008	7.8
July 2008	7.9
August 2008	10.1
September 2008	11.3
October 2008	11.3
November 2008	11.0

Directgov has unique user statistics for part of our site but does not yet measure unique users for all our sub domains.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the strategic plan for the Direct.gov website. [241579]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov has a working strategy document. We aim to place a summary of our strategy in the House in January. Our full strategy document is a living document and is currently under review; this will also be made available in January.

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to introduce a facility to allow users to rate the content of web pages on the Direct.gov website. [241582]

Jonathan Shaw: A pilot to examine how users could be allowed to rate content pages on the Directgov website is currently being developed to run from January 2009. If successful, the aim is to introduce the service during a scheduled release of the Directgov website during Q2 of FY 2009-10.

Electronic Government: Public Consultation

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of bringing forward procedures to allow people to participate in online conversations on Government consultations that are listed on the Direct.gov website. [241534]

Jonathan Shaw: The Directgov website contains links to individual departmental consultation websites

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/UKgovernment/PublicConsultations/DG_170463

Details of the latest public consultations are also provided. Citizens can also find out about consultations in their area where searching by postcode, street and town or local authority will take them direct to the consultations page on the relevant local authority website. An enhanced consultations index is planned for delivery by mid-2009.

At present, all consultations are hosted by individual departments and it is for those Departments to determine how the public are engaged in that consultation. Directgov has agreed to host cross-government consultations in the future and we are working with Cabinet Office on how best to do this.

Forum functionality could be used to enable people to participate in online conversations on Government consultations. Directgov has future plans to add forum functionality to our web platform. We will consider the merits of bringing forward the implementation of this, although it will be for individual Departments to agree as to how this will be used with their own consultations.

Employment Services

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* people with disabilities to (i) prepare for and (ii) obtain work. [240277]

Jonathan Shaw: Lone parents have access to a comprehensive package of measures via new deal for lone parents or new deal plus for lone parents pilots to encourage them to improve their employment opportunities and gain independence through working.

We have also introduced additional pre and post employment support to help more lone parents move into and remain in work. This includes: increasing work trials from three to up to six weeks; options and choices events and rolling out nationally in work credit, an in work discretion fund and in work advisory support.

From October 2008 incapacity benefits were replaced for new customers by employment and support allowance with a revised medical assessment which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot. To underpin the new more work-focused system we have made Pathways to Work support available to everyone receiving incapacity benefits, and in the future employment and support allowance.

Specialist disability employment services also enable many thousands of disabled people to lead fulfilling working lives, people who may otherwise be excluded from the workplace. We have carried out a major review of the specialist disability employment services. The public consultation ran between 3 December 2007 and 10 March 2008 and sets out how we think we can improve these services to help more disabled people.

The consultation also set out proposals for a new programme to replace Workstep, Work Preparation and the Job Introduction Scheme, and proposals for an enhanced role for Disability Employment Advisers. The Welfare Reform Green Paper "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility", Cm 7363, said that we would implement these improvements to services. The Green Paper also said that we would double, by 2013/14, the budget for Access to Work. As a consequence of these changes, we will be able to help greater numbers of disabled people prepare for, take up and retain paid work.

Low Incomes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in families in work which were earning less than the average national weekly income there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [240130]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer he was given on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 694W.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to promote the Post Office card account. [240326]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We provide information which helps customers choose the account which best meets their needs and circumstances, including making the Post Office card account easily available to those who need it. And more than 10,000 new Post Office card accounts are opened on average each month.

We have already made changes to the booklet being sent to existing cheque customers so that it explicitly refers to the Post Office card account. We have also updated the messages that staff use when speaking to customers to reflect the fact that the Post Office card account will now continue until at least 2015. Other communications material will be kept under review.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 967-68, on Post Office card account, what estimate he has made of the level of reasonable costs for which the Government will provide compensation to unsuccessful bidders. [241022]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently discussing with the other bidders who were still in the competition at the point at which it was halted the details of their reasonable bid costs to be reimbursed. The precise amounts payable are still to be decided and will be subject to commercial confidentiality.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legal requirements applied to *(a)* the decision to put the Post Office card account contract out to tender and *(b)* the ending of the tender process and the award of the contract to Post Office Limited. [241203]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The decisions to put the contract out to tender, and the decision to end the tender process, were taken in accordance with domestic and European Union law, including the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and EU Directive 2004/18/EC.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any claim for compensation has been made by a bidder in the terminated Post Office card account tender process. [241336]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently discussing with the other bidders who were still in the competition at the point at which it was halted the details of their reasonable bid costs to be reimbursed.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Government has concluded that the cancellation of the Post Office Card Account contract tender process does not require the agreement of the European Commission. [241405]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The decision to end the tender process was taken in accordance with European Union law (EU Directive 2004/18/EC—enacted through the Public Contracts Regulations 2006), so the need for specific agreement from the Commission did not arise.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's offices are shared with staff from HM Revenue and Customs. [241580]

Jonathan Shaw: A list of all the sites which the Department shares with staff from HM Revenue and Customs has been placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library: Security

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will request the British Library to use closed circuit television and to take other security measures in its reading rooms where rare books are consulted; and if he will make a statement. [240529]

Barbara Follett: This is a matter for the British Library. The security of the collections is an issue to which the British Library Board assigns very high priority.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [illegible]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS published its first annual report on progress on disability equality in March 2008, available on the DCMS website

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5082.aspx

The report describes progress on each item in our action plan and further action, for example, the establishment of a Disability Reference Group, plans to improve our data collection on participation by disabled people in our sectors and work to improve the diversity of the boards of our public bodies.

We will publish our second progress report early in 2009.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1110W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242106]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242117]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS takes part in the Summer Diversity Internship Programme which is led by Cabinet Office. In the last three years, DCMS has taken five graduate/postgraduate interns (per year) for a period of six to eight weeks. They were each paid equivalent of a grade C/EO post and worked an average of 36 hours per week across the Department. Each candidate sent a CV which outlined their interests and as a Department, sought to match each intern with a particular area of interest in the Department. All the interns who took part in the programme completed the agreed time with us.

Film: Bradford

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department is giving to Bradford's bid to become the world's first city of film. [240347]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not received any direct requests for support regarding Bradford's bid to become the first UNESCO City of Film.

However, the Regional Screen Agency, Screen Yorkshire—which is funded by the UK Film Council—has continued to provide a great deal of assistance to the bid. In the last six months they have given senior management time to the board, awarded finance to help in purchasing a projector and they are working to align City of Film activity with the UK-wide Film Education Strategy (21st Century Literacy). In addition, Steve Abbott chairs both the Screen Yorkshire and the City of Film bid Boards.

National Lottery Commission: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much the National Lottery Commission spent on administration in each year since 1997; [240940]

(2) how much the National Lottery Commission spent on staff expenses in each year since 1997; [240941]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Nationkl Lottery Commission in each year since 1997; [240946]

(4) how much the National Lottery Commission paid to external consultants in each year since 1997; [240947]

(5) how much the National Lottery Commission spent on salaries in each year since 1997; [240948]

(6) how much the National Lottery Commission spent on staff bonuses in each year since 1997. [240949]

Barbara Follett: The National Lottery Commission have advised that the following payments were made:

£

	Administration	*Staff expenses*	*Number of FTE staff*	*Consultants costs*	*Salaries*	*Bonus*
1999-2000	271,000	37,000	37	1,379,000	1,367,000	—
2000-01	293,000	88,000	33	2,438,000	1,443,000	11,000
2001-02	224,000	77,000	30	700,000	1,362,000	26,000
2002-03	224,000	41,000	28	772,000	1,439,000	32,000
2003-04	217,000	32,000	41	1,049,000	1,811,000	50,000
2004-05	275,000	40,000	42	1,029,000	1,960,000	49,000
2005-06	344,000	129,000	42	5,241,000	2,283,000	61,000
2006-07	356,000	35,000	44.3	7,506,000	2,536,000	80,000
2007-08	620,000	57,000	43.6	2,637,000	2,650,000	72,000

Notes:

1. The National Lottery Commission was set up on 1 April 1999. As such, figures have been provided from financial year 1999-2000.
2. Administration costs exclude legal advice, external auditor's remuneration or other consultancy costs.
3. Staff expenses figures are travel and subsistence expenses claimed by NLC staff.
4. Consultancy costs include legal costs, external auditor's remuneration and other consultancy costs.
5. Salaries include pension and national insurance contributions.
6. Staff bonuses are paid in July each year, in arrears for the previous financial year.
7. Throughout the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 the Commission was running the competition to award the national lottery operator licence.

National Lottery: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what income his Department received from the National Lottery in each year since 1997. [240939]

Barbara Follett: Income received by DCMS in each year from the National Lottery Distribution Fund is shown in the following table:

£000

	Recovery of National Lottery Commission grant in aid	*Recovery of DCMS costs*
1997-98	1,991	203
1998-99	1,815	569
1999-2000	2,740	161
2000-01	4,396	230

£000

	Recovery of National Lottery Commission grant in aid	Recovery of DCMS costs
2001-02	2,809	228
2002-03	2,342	223
2003-04	3,765	243
2004-05	4,401	236
2005-06	7,921	245
2006-07	8,047	267
2007-08	9,848	210

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what plans he has to link celebrations marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the London Olympics in 2012; [240857]

(2) what plans his Department has made to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [240856]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1077W.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his estimate is of the number of adults who participated in moderate intensity sport at least three times a week in each of the last five years. [240333]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Taking Part Survey provides annual estimates of the number of adults in England who participate in moderate intensity sport (including recreational cycling and walking) at least three times a week. The survey began in 2005 and comparable data are therefore not available before this point.

	Percentage	Estimated number
2005-06	20.9 (+/- 0.6)	7,952,000
2006-07	21.5 (+/-0.7)	8,429,000
2007-08[1]	21.6 (+/-0.9)	8,493,000

[1] This figure is based on interim six-month data, as final estimates from the 2007-08 survey have not yet been published.

Video Games

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution to the economy of the computer games industry. [240275]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

In 2007, the turnover of the UK games market (games consoles, software and accessories) totalled £3.356 billion, rising from £2.19 billion in 2006. (*Source:* Screen Digest)

There are 280 games companies in the UK employing over 10,000 creative staff. Employment of a further 18,100 people is supported by the sector. (*Source:* Oxford Economics report: The Economic Contribution of the Games Development Industry)

In 2008 so far the UK games development industry contribution to GDP is £586 million. (*Source:* as aforementioned)

Please note that the aforementioned figures are taken from industry commissioned reports. It is not possible to use official Government statistics to measure the total size of the games sector as relevant figures are currently included in the wider SIC category of "software, computer games and electronic publishing". An SIC code revision exercise took place in 2007 and the newly identified code for computer games publishing will come into effect in 2009 when the first data are published.

Youth Alcohol Action Plan

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* yellow cards and *(b)* red cards have been issued to licensees under his Department's alert system referred to in the Youth Alcohol Action Plan. [240545]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The adoption of a yellow and red card approach to licensing reviews does not necessarily mean the physical issue of actual cards. The term is an illustrative one used to explain how enforcement and licensing officers can put irresponsible premises on notice that they face losing their licence if they do not improve. At first review (yellow card) tough conditions can be included on the premises licence. If, after another review, there has been no improvement or the licence conditions have been breached, the licence could be suspended or revoked (red card). We are working with licensing authorities to explore how they might use such an approach to take swift and firm action against problem premises.

Zoneparcs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Zoneparcs are in operation; and how much funding for these projects has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent to date. [240336]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Sport Trust have advised that the budget for Zoneparc between 2004 and 2007 was £8,250,000 and has all been spent. This has resulted in a total of 425 Zoneparcs being set up.

Zoneparc was a playground project aimed at tackling social exclusion and increasing activity levels of young people by introducing innovative break time activities and playground management systems to make break times safer and more fun for everyone in the school.

There is currently no more planned funding. However, the Department for Children, Schools and Families Children's Plan sets out a new agenda on how Government will support children with the biggest ever investment in play of £225 million. In April 2008 this was increased by an additional £10 million—a vital investment to support the development of more stimulating play facilities for children which children and families have told us they want to see.

An offer of capital funding will be made to every local authority in England to support the delivery of stimulating local places to play. The £235 million will fund 30 new adventure playgrounds or play parks, and up to 3,500 play areas nationally will be rebuilt or renewed. We expect these to be fun, stimulating, accessible places to play. We want these to be inclusive for all children, including disabled children, and aimed particularly at 8 to 13-year-olds and those living in disadvantaged areas.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many questions for written answer tabled to his Department in Session 2007-08 did not receive a substantive reply; and if he will make a statement. [240404]

Mr. Woodward: Out of a total number of 1,720 questions received by my Department in the last Session, four questions did not receive a substantive reply. All four questions were tabled in November. Unfortunately, it was not possible to answer any of them prior to Prorogation.

A further seven questions received a Prorogation answer (these were tabled on or after 20 November).

WALES

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240975]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is included in the MoJ Disability Equality Scheme, published at:

www.justice.gov.uk/docs/disability-equality-scheme.pdf

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242627]

Mr. Paul Murphy: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

I travel by train on a weekly basis. I last used a train on 9 December.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Right of Search

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what information the Commission has on the time and date when the Clerk of the House was informed of the Metropolitan Police's search of the Parliamentary office of the hon. Member for Ashford. [240996]

Nick Harvey: This is not a matter for the Commission. The House has decided to set up a Committee to review this matter.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242599]

Mr. Hoon: My official travel is undertaken in line with the requirements of the Ministerial Code. The last rail journey I undertook on official business was today, 10 December 2008.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many candidates took the motorcycle driving test in each of the last 18 months for which figures are available. [241526]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of candidates who took the practical motorcycle riding test in each of the last 18 months is in the following table.

Month	*Candidates (number)*
2007	
April	6,293
May	7,590
June	8,309
July	8,706
August	9,214
September	8,238
October	8,458
November	7,654
December	4,353
2008	
January	4,023
February	4,576
March	5,268
April	7,772
May	8,404
June	9,208
July	11,285
August	11,436
September	13,517
October	7,669

Railways: Fares

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average rise in regulated rail fares was from *(a)* Abbey Wood Station, *(b)* Barnehurst Station, *(c)* Bexleyheath Station, *(d)* Crayford Station, *(e)* Slade Green Station and *(f)* W[illegible]ling Station to London in each year since 1997. [240414]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The office of Rail Regulation publishes "National Rail Trends" on a quarterly basis. This document contains a variety of industry information and statistics including a national fares index.

Roads: Accidents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other outcomes there were in road accidents in each county in England in each month of the last five years. [242270]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the numbers of reported personal injury road casualties in each county in England in each month of the past five years, showing *(a)* fatalities *(b)* seriously injured casualties and *(c)* slightly injured casualties has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

SCOTLAND

Devolution Settlement

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the operation of the devolution settlement. [240216]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with my Cabinet colleagues and others about the devolution settlement to ensure that it continues to deliver for the people of Scotland and maintain our place within the Union.

Pre-Budget Report

8. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effect on the Scottish economy of the measures announced in the Pre-Budget report. [240217]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The package of measures represents a welcome £2 billion boost for Scottish families and businesses. This will provide the required fiscal stimulus while ensuring stability and readiness to take advantage once we enter the upturn in the economy.

Banking Sector

9. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the future of the banking sector in Scotland. [240218]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I am in regular contact with the First Minister and discuss a variety of issues. The Scottish banking system is now well placed to combat these difficult times after the significant intervention by this Government to stabilise the market.

National Minimum Wage

10. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on ensuring that businesses in Scotland are complying with the national minimum wage. [240219]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor on a range of issues. We are committed to effective national minimum wage enforcement through new penalties contained within the Employment Act 2008, and initiatives such as the current "It's Your Call" roadshow, which I attended in Glasgow last month. The roadshow will give workers advice on their entitlements and on how to make a complaint if they have been underpaid.

Mortgage Lenders

11. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of mortgage lenders in Scotland. [240220]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I met with Scottish representatives of the Council of Mortgage Lenders on 30 October to discuss steps to minimise house repossessions.

Scottish Water

12. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the status of Scottish Water as a publicly owned company. [240222]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has had no recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the status of Scottish water.

Income Support

13. **John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effect of recent changes in entitlement rules for income support on vulnerable people in Scotland. [240223]

Mr. Jim Murphy: From 27 October 2008 employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on incapacity grounds for new customers. From 24 November 2008 changes were introduced to income support for certain lone parents. Lone parents and other groups will continue to receive the same amount of benefit on jobseekers allowance as they do under income support. There will be no impacts on benefit payments. The modified JSA will cater for a wide variety of different support needs. As now, there will be no requirement for some groups (for example, carers) to engage in work-focused activity.

Debt Advice Services

14. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on the provision of debt advice in Scotland. [240224]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I held a constructive meeting with the First Minister and Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, STUC and CBI Scotland on 21 October to discuss the actions being taken by the UK Government to address these difficult economic times. We agreed at that meeting to maintain regular contact and this has continued. I also convened a meeting with representatives of Citizens Advice Scotland and Money Advice Scotland to discuss how new measures in the pre-Budget report, such as the £10 million, with £1 million consequentials for Scotland, between now and March 2010 for the Citizens' Advice Bureaux, will help the most needy in society.

Bank Services

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish banks on arrangements for public financial support for them. [241194]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend regularly meets representatives of the Scottish banking sector to discuss a range of issues.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240459]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for the Scotland Office on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 765W.

JUSTICE

Legal Services Ombudsman

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average it has taken the Legal Services Ombudsman to *(a)* deal with and *(b)* decide individual cases in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [240549]

Bridget Prentice: The office of the legal services ombudsman (OLSO) aims to provide an excellent service to all of its customers.

The average turnaround time between 1 December 2007 and 30 November 2008 is 2.44 months for the legal services ombudsman to deal with and decide individual cases.

Migration: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of former UK residents who have taken up residence in the Isle of Man in the last three years. [240810]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not made any such estimates. However, I am informed by the Isle of Man Government that according to the 2006 Census, between 2001 and 2005 some 6,910 new residents arrived from the UK and were still residing in the island at 23-24 April 2006. It should be noted that this figure would include previous Isle of Man residents, including those who were Manx-born, and non-British nationals.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Australian nationals were detained in HM prisons at the latest date for which figures are available. [240854]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September 2008, the latest date for which this information is available, there were 26 Australian nationals detained in prison establishments in England and Wales. Information on the number of foreign national prisoners by nationality is published quarterly in table 5 of the Population in Custody monthly brief at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm.

The figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prostitution: Offenders

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were serving prison sentences for offences in connection with prostitution at the latest date for which figures are available. [240415]

Mr. Hanson: The legal background to the offence of being a common prostitute, loitering, or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution is contained in Section 1 of the Street Offences Act, 1959.

Under the Act the maximum penalty for this offence is a fine, not imprisonment. Figures obtained from the prison service IT system confirm that there are currently no women serving prison sentences for the offence. Non-payment of any fine accruing from the offence would be recorded as defaulting on the payment of the fine.

Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders released from prison in the first quarter of *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006 reoffended between one and two years of release. [240405]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 shows the one-year reoffending rates for offenders leaving custody in the first quarter of the years 2000 to 2006 (data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data for community sentences). The table shows the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

Table 1: One-year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody, 2000-06

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders' offending (one year) (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders (one year)*
2000	15,727	51.4	245.5
2002	15,578	55.0	288.2
2003	14,358	53.9	279.1
2004	15,761	51.9	253.1
2005	14,595	49.1	228.5
2006	14,380	46.5	208.4

Two-year reoffending rates are available for the 2000 to 2005 cohorts. For these cohorts, the only figures available are the proportion of offenders who committed a further offence within two years. These figures are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Two-year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody, 2000-2005

	Number of offenders	*Proportion offenders offending (two years) (percentage)*
2000	16,527	64.8
2002	15,887	67.4
2003	15,305	65.8
2004	16,385	64.7
2005	14,713	62.1

It should be noted that comparisons between the one and two-year rates should be interpreted with caution. This is due to a slight improvement in the method used to count offenders released from custody (or starting court orders under probation supervision) when we moved to measuring reoffending over one year rather than two.

Information on the percentage of offenders that reoffended between one and two years of release is not readily available. However, some information on the rate of reoffending between the first and second year can be seen in Figure 2 (page 4) of the publication.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

We have had real success in reducing the reoffending of offenders released from custody. Between 2000 and 2006 the number of reoffences committed by offenders released from custody has fallen 15.1 per cent.

Overall, the most recent reoffending statistics, published in September 2008, demonstrated that reoffending frequency fell among adult offenders in 2006.

The figures showed a 22.9 per cent. fall in the frequency rate from 189.4 to 146.1 offences per 100 offenders between 2000 and 2006.The number of adult reoffences classified as most serious fell 11.1 per cent. from 0.78 to 0.69 offences per 100 offenders.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations his Department has received on changes to the special educational needs and disability tribunal in the last six months. [240763]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has received 157 representations on the changes to the special educational needs and disability tribunal in the last six months.

Tourism: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many tourists from the UK visited the Isle of Man in 2007. [240820]

Mr. Wills: The information is not held in the form requested. The Isle of Man Government estimate that there were approximately 295,600 visits to the Island in 2007 by UK residents, but this number does not equate to the number of visitors.

Young Offender Institutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children between the ages of *(a)* 11 and 13, *(b)* 14 and 16 and *(c)* 17 and 18 years were held in young offender institutions in each year since 1997, broken down by sex; [241287]

(2) how many children were detained in the prison estate on 1 April in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* offence for which they were detained. [241288]

Mr. Hanson: In law, children are young persons under the age of 15. Young offender institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. No children under the age of 15 are held in prison. The following figures refer to children and young people under the age of 18 as at the end of June in each year since 1997 held in prison establishments in England and Wales.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Male											
15 to 17	1,620	1,627	1,643	1,786	1,901	1,986	1,724	1,706	1,780	1,814	1,827
Female											
15-17	55	62	67	65	64	103	57	58	56	50	56

This table is taken from table 7.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

The following table gives the numbers of 15 to 17-year-olds held under immediate custodial sentence in all prison establishments in England and Wales between 2003 and 2007, by offence:

15 to 17-year-olds

Males and Females	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Immediate custodial sentence	1,781	1,763	1,835	1,865	1,883
Violence against the person	320	341	389	391	422
Sexual offences	42	55	65	68	73
Robbery	456	456	438	503	509

15 to 17-year-olds

Males and Females	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Burglary	290	248	289	282	283
Theft and handling	299	277	233	192	191
Fraud and forgery	2	7	11	11	10
Drug offences	49	57	79	71	74
Motoring offences	123	94	58	69	44
Other offences	155	203	257	265	259
Offence not recorded	44	27	18	13	19

This table is taken from table 7.10 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

Figures for the years between 1997 and 2002 are as follows:

All sentenced males and females

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Total	1,673	1,689	1,710	1,860	1,976	2,084
Violence against the person	231	241	267	288	358	364
All sexual offences (before 2001)	40	47	48	59		
Rape					30	29
Other sexual offences					22	29
Burglary	452	434	454	468	391	404
Robbery	443	475	425	409	439	519
Theft and handling	181	202	219	310	325	319
Fraud and forgery	0	4	6	6	5	5
Drugs offences					49	51
Other offences	191	179	230	280	293	287
Offence not recorded	135	107	61	39	64	78

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beaches: Standards

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on water quality at English beaches and the Blue Flag scheme. [241059]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State has not held any discussions with EU counterparts in the last year about the quality of bathing waters in England.

The Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC, as revised by 2006/7/EC) sets water quality standards for bathing waters. The Blue Flag scheme is an independent award, administered in England by ENCAMS, which has water quality as only one of its criteria.

British Waterways Board

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to page 119 of the Pre Budget Report Cm 7684, what form will be taken by the review to assess how best public value might be delivered from assets in the medium term in respect of British Waterways; and if he will make a statement. [240392]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Treasury Operational Efficiency Programme Review will consider the scope for improved asset management across Government. The project will include a review of the British Waterways non-operational property portfolio, and business model, to consider how its assets might best deliver public value. The review will consider carefully any implications of options considered for the long-term funding of British Waterways' statutory responsibilities. Formal Terms of Reference for the review will shortly be finalised.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individuals provided consultancy services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the top 10 contracts by value were in each case. [241193]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department will in its departmental report 2009 publish a list of its 10 most valuable contracts in the expenditure area of consultancy. A copy of the departmental report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individuals provided consultancy service to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the 10 most valuable contracts were in each case. [241237]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department will in its departmental report 2009 publish a list of its 10 most valuable contracts in the expenditure area of consultancy. A copy of the departmental report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on professional *(a)* IT and telecommunication, *(b)* management and business consultancy, *(c)* programme and project management, *(d)* research and development, *(e)* specialist consultancy and *(f)* temporary staff services in 2007-08. [241236]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: The information is being compiled for inclusion in DEFRA's departmental report for 2009, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood engineers are employed by the Environment Agency; and how many vacancies for flood engineers there are at the Environment Agency. [241297]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency estimates that it employs around 200 chartered and incorporated engineers with experience in flood and coastal risk management. The Environment Agency has 64 vacancies in engineering posts. It is recruiting to fill 20 posts and will start recruiting for the remaining 44 posts in the new year.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which districts have held emergency planning measures and resilience scenarios to prepare for future flooding incidents following the floods of summer 2007. [241088]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the last survey undertaken by the Government (the National Capability Survey in January 2008) some 70 per cent. of Category 1 responders indicated they had validated their flood response plan through an exercise or during a real event in the last two years. Category 1 responders are those organisations at the core of the response to most emergencies (e.g. emergency services, local authorities, NHS bodies).

More recent information has confirmed that there have been exercises in every Government office region across the country since summer 2007. These range from in-house exercises by individual responder organisations to multi-agency exercises involving a number of Local Resilience Forums across the region. There have also been a number of real flooding events that have triggered the use of local flood emergency plans.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been made to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure from flooding since the floods which took place in July 2007. [241291]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In response to Sir Michael Pitt's interim report, the Government agreed the need to introduce a systematic, co-ordinated, cross-sector campaign to reduce the disruption caused by natural hazards to critical infrastructure and essential services. The Government will now establish a 'Natural Hazards Team' charged with co-ordinating efforts to identify and counter the risks to national infrastructure from natural hazards. In the short term, the systematic programme will co-ordinate the early assessment of the vulnerability and risk of flooding in the most critical elements of national infrastructure.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change instigated reviews of the resilience of the electricity, gas and oil sectors to flood risks in 2007 and 2008. In the case of electricity, work is well advanced to identify and develop additional resilience measures on a site specific basis. The oil and gas industries demonstrated a high level of confidence in the inherent resilience of their infrastructure. However, both industries are reviewing the remaining risks to identify precautionary measures. In the telecommunications industry, the distributed network largely provides the necessary service resilience. In the water sector, Ofwat has issued guidance for water companies on flood risk assessment and identification of priority investments in preparation for the 2009 price review.

Floods: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties were considered to be at risk of flooding in each of the last five years. [241295]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency undertakes regular assessments of the number of properties at risk of flooding from rivers and from the sea through its National Flood Risk Assessments (NaFRA). There are no national figures available to estimate the number of properties at risk of flooding from surface water, drains or sewers.

DEFRA made estimates through its national assessment of assets at risk (NAAR) in 2000 and 2001. The Environment Agency undertook risk assessment for strategic planning (RASP) research in 2002 and developed the research tool into the NaFRA methodology with results in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency have estimated the number of properties to be at risk from flooding in the following years.

	Source	*Properties at risk (million)*
2001	NAAR	1.9
2002	RASP	1.7
2004	NaFRA	2.2
2005	NaFRA	2.2
2006	NaFRA	2.3

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent improvements have been made to the Environment Agency's flood warning system. [241290]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency continuously investigates ways to improve the service it provides to all customers at risk through its flood warning systems. Recent and planned improvements include:

extending real-time river level monitoring network to cover more sites at risk;

improving the quality of forecasts of tidal and river flooding by developing computer models;

recruitment of over 70,000 people since summer 2007 with a further 60,000 expected to be recruited by February next year, raising people on the system to well over 400,000;

a series of local campaigns to raise awareness of flood risk and encourage more people to sign-up to our flood warning system;

negotiating with the telecommunications companies holding ex-directory landline phone numbers so we can warn everyone on this list by the end of 2009;

working with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) to produce audio versions of the leaflets which tell people what to do before, during and after a flood;

producing audio versions, developed in conjunction with the RNIB, of their guides to flooding;

working with critical infrastructure operators to share information on flood depths and levels so energy and water companies can identify which of their assets are at risk;

launching an online registration system for the public to sign up for floodline warnings direct by spring 2009;

providing a more targeted flood warning service by creating more specific and appropriately named community flood warning areas;

reviewing existing Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) customer data to ensure that they hold accurate information;

contacting 9,200 existing customers to inform them that the flood risk to their property had been reduced and they no longer had to stay registered with FWD; and,

undertaking trials with a number of local authorities to see how advice from different organisations can be accessed at one point through the Environment Agency's Floodline service.

Insects

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of trends in the populations of pollinating insects in the last five years; [241060]

(2) what assessment he has made of trends in the populations of *(a)* bees, *(b)* moths, *(c)* butterflies, *(d)* beetles, *(e)* upwing flies and *(f)* other invertebrates in the last five years. [241061]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Trend data do not exist for all invertebrates, but have been collated for some groups, especially the more iconic ones, such as butterflies and bees. Only the longer term data sets can give a meaningful picture of the changes in trends rather than shorter term fluctuations.

Trends for UK Biodiversity Action Plan invertebrates are also assessed individually every three years through a national reporting round. The data from 2008 reporting will be available early in 2009.

Marine and Fisheries Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which functions of the Marine and Fisheries Agency are dependent on the Agency's location; and for what reasons in each case. [241136]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) currently operates from 18 offices around the coast of England and a HQ office in London. DEFRA intends for the functions delivered by the MFA to be taken on by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill published on 5 December.

There are no functions of the MFA HQ which are dependent on the location. Careful consideration is currently being given to the most suitable location for the MMO's HQ, which will also comprise the existing coastal offices of the MFA. The criteria being used to identify a suitable location include identifying marine stakeholder clusters to promote close relationships with users and regulators in the marine area, and universities with marine specialisations.

No decision has been taken on the location of the MMO HQ or the timing of any move. However, DEFRA is working hard to ensure continued effective services are provided during the transition to the MMO, and beyond.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect on the Marine Management Organisation's operations of relocating its headquarters outside London. [241135]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A significant part of the operational work undertaken by Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) HQ is to meet EU obligations, and the effective transition provided by the skeleton body will help avoid the possibility of infraction if the organisation is unable to meet these requirements. A Marine Management Organisation (MMO) skeleton body will be set up to start running from autumn 2009 to run in parallel with the MFA until 31 March 2010 to mitigate any risks arising as a result of relocating.

To ensure there is no loss in knowledge and skills from the MFA between now and autumn 2009, I will be announcing a decision on the MMO HQ's location as soon as possible. This is to ensure that existing staff work closely with both the MFA's senior management team and the MMO implementation team to capture knowledge and pass it to MMO staff who will begin to populate the skeleton body.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new jobs there will be for local people in each of the new locations of the Marine Management Organisation; and how much each such job will cost to create as a proportion of the total costs of the move. [241138]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Until existing Marine and Fisheries Agency staff have had the opportunity to choose whether or not to relocate, it is not possible to say how many new jobs there might be.

When it is clearer how many staff will relocate and, therefore, how many new people will need to be recruited, my officials will be able to start a recruitment exercise. In order to attract the best possible pool of talent for the Marine Management Organisation, this will not necessarily be restricted to recruiting locally.

For these reasons, it is not possible to say how many new jobs there will be for local people and hence, relate this to the costs of the move.

Seals: Conservation

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to protect the UK's populations of common and grey seals. [241071]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Seal conservation is a devolved issue, so I will answer with respect to England only. Seals are protected in England by the Conservation of Seals Act 1970. Under the 1970 Act it is an offence to take or kill common and grey seals out of season.

The 1970 Act also allows the Secretary of State if it appears necessary for the proper conservation of seals, to prohibit by way of an order the killing, injuring or taking of either or both the above seal species in any area specified in the order. There is currently such an order (The Conservation of Seals (England) Order 1999) protecting common and grey seals on the East coast of England in order to allow the numbers to recover from the Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) outbreaks of 1988 and 2002 which greatly reduced the common seal population on the east coast of England.

Several marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been created around the UK to specifically protect, among other species, common and grey seals. Within SACs, competent authorities have to take appropriate steps to avoid significant disturbance to the species concerned or deterioration of their habitat.

Seas and Oceans: Noise

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of shipping noise on *(a)* whales, *(b)* dolphins, *(c)* porpoises and *(d)* other aquatic animals; [241473]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to designate ocean noise a pollutant for the purposes of the forthcoming Marine Bill. [241484]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK Government are concerned about the potential impact of undersea noise on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and the wider marine environment, and have taken action on a number of issues in this respect.

In October 2004, DEFRA commissioned research assessing the feasibility of examining the ears of stranded dead cetaceans to determine whether they show any signs of damage due to marine noise. A report on the findings of this research was published in November 2006 and showed that of the three sets of cetacean ears examined in detail, none had evidence of acoustic trauma. It went on to outline the technical problems associated with examining cetacean ears for the effects of marine noise. A copy of the report is available on the Science pages of the DEFRA website at

www.defra.gov.uk

In November 2005, the UK supported the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Resolution 8.22 on adverse human induced impacts on cetaceans, which included requesting the CMS Secretariat and Scientific Council to review the extent to which CMS and CMS cetacean-related agreements are addressing various human induced impacts, including marine noise.

DEFRA was also part of an Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology (IACMST) working group on 'Underwater Sound and Marine Life'. This working group prepared a report detailing what steps were needed in light of present information, in order to achieve a regulatory framework for the control of sound in the marine environment. This report can be found on the IACMST website at

www.marine.gov.uk

More recently, the Government have provided funding towards work on cetacean distribution and abundance in European Atlantic offshore waters. The information collected as part of this project is intended to assist in making an assessment of the different threats to cetaceans, including seismic activity. We anticipate the final report to be available by early 2009, and we hope that it will help to inform what mitigation measures may be required for the protection of cetaceans.

In order to improve our understanding of the scale and impacts of human derived noise occurring in the marine environment, the Department also intends to complete a call for research proposals in early 2009. This call will be to identify and take forward research on assessing the current status of marine noise occurring in the marine environment, including shipping, and assessing what the impacts are on marine life.

DEFRA, in line with its commitments under both ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) and the Habitats Directive (Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, Council Directive 92/43/EEC), also supports a long running contract with the Natural History Museum examining causes of mortality in stranded cetaceans and marine turtles around the UK. This research helps to inform what factors, e.g. disease, malnutrition, may be affecting the populations of cetaceans in UK waters.

In addition, The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is funding two projects by consultants, Subacoustech Limited—estimating, measuring and controlling the environmental effects of man-made noise on the marine environment, and a feasibility and demonstration study on the active and passive detection of marine mammals.

Using powers contained in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, the Government plan to designate Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) which will form part of an ecological coherent network of marine protected areas around the UK. MCZs will be designated to protect habitats and species of national importance and will be protected through new duties being placed on public authorities. Where the achievement of the conservation objectives for an MCZ requires marine noise to be controlled, the competent authority will have duties to that effect.

The impacts of marine noise on the wider environment will also be taken into account through decisions made using the new marine planning system and licensing process as proposed in the Bill, and as required under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Government consider that the proposals contained in the Bill, together with existing legislation, will provide the necessary powers to control marine noise where it poses a risk to valuable marine wildlife.

I am pleased to confirm that the Government introduced the Marine and Coastal Access Bill into the House of Lords on 4 December 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Cards: Fees and Charges

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the charge will be for registering a change of *(a)* name, *(b)* marital status and *(c)* address under the proposed national identity card scheme. [240925]

Meg Hillier: Martial status will not be recorded on the National Identity Register. As such, a need to update marital status does not arise. It is currently expected that a change of address on an individual's record on the National Identity Register will not incur a fee.

For a change of name, or any change that would require a replacement identity card to be issued, it is proposed that the initial fee for a replacement card will be £30 in 2009 and 2010, subject to an evaluation phase at relevant airports where the fee may be waived for airside workers who are required to enrol on the National Identity Register and are issued with an identity card.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of apprenticeships taken up in *(a)* Wandsworth and *(b)* London in each month since January 2006, broken down by apprenticeship type. [242289]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in the region of London from January 2006 to July 2007, by the month in which the apprenticeship started. Figures are presented up to the end of the 2006-07 academic year, the latest year for which fully audited data are available.

Numbers for Wandsworth local authority are too small to split by the month in which the course has started.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in Wandsworth local authority, London and a total for all regions for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 academic year.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in London by month of start for January 2006 to July 2007

Month apprenticeship started	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*
2006			
January	240	660	900
February	220	540	760
March	200	610	810
April	140	390	520
May	150	390	550
June	140	370	500
July	250	530	780
August	330	810	1,140
September	860	1,750	2,610
October	270	780	1,060
November	290	610	910
December	140	380	510
2007			
January	250	610	860
February	70	110	180
March	220	490	710
April	150	470	620
May	160	350	510
June	180	410	580
July	330	560	890

Notes:
1. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include a small number of higher level apprenticeships.
2. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Local authority and region is based on learner's home postcode.
Source:
WBL ILR 2005-06 and 2006-07

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in Wandsworth local authority, London and all regions

	2005-06			*2006-07*		
	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*	*Advanced Apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*
Wandsworth London	60 3,250	190 7,770	250 11,010	70 3,380	140 7,710	220 11,090
All regions	52,130	122,850	174,980	57,020	127,410	184,430

Notes:
1. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include a small number of higher level apprenticeships.
2. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Local authority and region is based on learner's home postcode.
Source:
WBL ILR 2005-06 and 2006-07

Copyright

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on penalties for *(a)* physical and *(b)* online copyright infringement; and if he will make a statement. [241331]

Mr. Lammy: Penalties for criminal copyright infringement must be proportionate to the harm caused to UK industries, so that they act as an effective deterrent. We have recently (31 October) completed a consultation on introducing exceptional summary maxima (above £5,000) in the magistrates courts for offences of online and physical copyright infringement.

Degrees: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students completing BEd courses were awarded a *(a)* pass, *(b)* third class and *(c)* lower second class degree in each of the last 10 years. [242002]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The available information relates to undergraduates gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) by class of degree in English Higher Education Institutions, and is given in the following table.

First degree with QTS qualifications obtained by class of degree English higher education institutions, academic years 1997-98 to 2006-07

		Of which: class of degree											
		Pass		Third		Lower Second[2]		Other[3]		Total classified		Unclassified[4]	
Academic year	Total first degree qualifiers with QTS[1]	No.	%[5]	No.	%[5]	No.	%[5]	No.	%[5]	No.	%[5]	No.	%[5]
1997-98	8,740	180	2.1	225	2.6	3,720	43.4	4,450	51.9	8,580	100.0	160	—
1998-99	8,385	110	1.3	285	3.4	3,605	43.7	4,260	51.6	8,260	100.0	125	—
1999-2000	6,785	70	1.0	170	2.6	2,685	40.2	3,760	56.2	6,690	100.0	95	—
2000-01	6,205	25	0.4	160	2.6	2,430	39.6	3,520	57.4	6,135	100.0	65	—
2001-02	5,920	20	0.3	145	2.5	2,320	39.8	3,350	57.4	5,830	100.0	90	—
2002-03	5,785	40	0.7	150	2.6	2,175	38.3	3,325	58.4	5,690	100.0	95	—
2003-04	5,585	30	0.5	220	3.9	2,145	38.7	3,145	56.8	5,535	100.0	50	—
2004-05	5,200	65	13	195	3.8	2,095	40.5	2,815	54.4	5,165	100.0	30	—
2005-06	5,175	35	0.7	170	3.3	2,090	40.4	2,870	55.6	5,165	100.0	15	—
2006-07	5,740	50	0.9	180	3.2	2,245	39.3	3,235	56.6	5,710	100.0	35	—

[1] Includes Unclassified qualifications.
[2] Includes Lower Second Class Honours and Undivided Second Class Honours.
[3] Includes First Class Honours, Upper Second Class Honours and Fourth Class Honours.
[4] Includes Unclassified, Aegrotat, Ordinary and General Degrees.
[5] The percentage calculations are expressed excluding Unclassified from the denominator.

Notes:

Includes those on BEd courses and those on BA or BSc with QTS.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest five and percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Adult Education

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces enrolled in adult education courses in the latest period for which figures are available. [242089]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on how many members of the armed forces have enrolled in adult education courses are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Allowances

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how Longer Service Separation Allowance payments for members of the armed forces are calculated. [242293]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The aim of LSA is to support and improve retention by compensating those personnel experiencing separation over and above that compensated for by the X factor. The Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) conducted a review of the X factor as part of their 2007-08 programme, and the Government accepted the AFPRB's recommendation to increase the X factor from 13 per cent. to 14 per cent. with effect from April 2008. Importantly, since X factor is merged into basic salary, its benefit is not only in a significant increase in monthly salary, but also in pension growth.

Given this X factor provision for lower levels of separation, LSA has a qualifying period of 10 days' involuntary separation before entitlement is triggered, at which point the allowance is paid with effect from the first day of separation. There is an exception for seagoing units, where LSA is awarded from the first day of departing base port, and also for 'on the road' posts in which individuals experience high frequency of separation of periods of at least four days' duration. Moreover, noting the close relationship between X factor and longer separation allowance, LSA is reviewed periodically by the AFPRB.

The allowance is paid according to 14 different tiers, currently ranging from £6.38 to £26.94 (taxable) per day—as recommended by the AFPRB. Increment level 1 is paid for the first 400 days' qualifying separation.

with incremental progression for each subsequent 300 days of qualifying separation. As such, the daily payment increases according to the through-career separation 'clock'. Payment to individuals is through the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Joint Professional Administration System records the number of long service separation allowance days to which members of the armed forces are entitled. [242294]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of longer separation allowance days paid is recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration System.

There is no maximum entitlement to longer separation allowance. It is an allowance paid for separation from the family or, if single, from the duty station over and above that accounted for within the X factor element of basic pay.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances a day's service on operations, recorded for the purposes of calculating a Longer Service Separation Allowance payment for an individual member of the armed forces, could not be used to calculate whether the same individual was in breach of harmony guidelines. [242295]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Activities that cause service personnel to be separated from their home base are as numerous as they are diverse. For this reason the joint personnel administration (JPA) records separated service through 16 separate activity codes that cover all aspects of individual training, collective training, pre-deployment training, courses and operations. Every 24 hour period that a service person spends away from their home base is used in the calculation of harmony, including operations.

Armed Forces: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the projected number is of battalion headquarters to be registered to the North West over the next two years; [240284]

(2) how many battalion headquarters were registered in the North West in each of the last three years. [240547]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: From 2005 to 2006, four infantry battalion headquarters were based in the North West, comprising two regular and two Territorial Army battalion headquarters.

In 2006, the two TA units combined. Since this time, three infantry battalion headquarters have been based in the North West, comprising two regular and one Territorial Army battalion headquarters. Between August 2007 and August 2008, one of these headquarters was temporarily relocated.

There are no plans for the number of battalion headquarters in the region to change over the next two years. The following table summarises battalion headquarters locations in the North West.

Unit	*Location*	*Remarks*
1st Battalion the Royal Welsh	Dale Barracks, Chester	Barracks unoccupied August 2007-August 2008 during Future Army Structures implementation
2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment	Weeton Barracks, Preston	Replaced 2nd Battalion The Rifles in August 2007
4th Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	Kimberley Barracks, Preston	Formed of Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers and Kings and Cheshire Regiment (Based at Kimberley Barracks and Peninsula Barracks, Warrington respectively)

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Pre Budget Report 2008, page 119, what the meaning is of the phrase examining alternative business models in respect of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; and if he will make a statement. [240394]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Detailed Terms of Reference for the studies on individual assets are still being prepared. In the case of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) these might provide for the organisation to offer new related products and services; to identify new sources of revenue; to consolidate with other elements in the defence supply chain or to identify alternative ways of providing DSDA services.

Falkland Islands: Air Routes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the affordability of the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement; [240771]

(2) what assessment he has made of the socio-economic impact on the Falkland Islands of the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; [240772]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the withdrawal of the child/student fare from the Falkland Islands Airbridge agreement on the ability of Falkland Islands family members to travel between the Falkland Islands and the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement; [240773]

(4) if he will reinstate the child/student fare to the Falkland Islands Airbridge pricing scheme under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; [240774]

(5) what representations his Department has received on the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; [240775]

(6) what consultations were carried out by his Department on the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement; [240776]

(7) if he will reduce the prices under the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement. [240777]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The existing Joint Policy Statement governing the South Atlantic Airbridge dates from 1992 and is based on the previous service provided by Royal Air Force TriStar aircraft. The introduction of a civilian charter service clearly required a revision to this statement, and this is being currently discussed between the MOD and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It would be premature to comment on any of the detail of this revised statement until these discussions have been completed.

Harrier Aircraft: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier pilots were deployed on Operation Herrick in each month since the deployment began. [240496]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the exact number of Harrier pilots deployed on Operation Herrick in each month since the deployment began is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, prior to September 2006, around nine pilots at a time were deployed in theatre. Since September 2006 (when the number of Harrier aircraft deployed in theatre increased from six to eight), around 11 pilots at a time were deployed in theatre. These figures may have occasionally fluctuated for short periods.

Joint Force Harrier

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces currently serving with Joint Force Harrier have been in breach of harmony guidelines in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* air crew and *(b)* ground crew and (i) Royal Air Force and (ii) Royal Navy personnel. [242292]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1554W.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces serving with Joint Force Harrier are not being administered by the Joint Personnel Administration System, broken down by trade. [242296]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All armed forces personnel, including those serving with the Joint Force Harrier, are administered by the joint personnel administration system.

Keep Our Future Afloat

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations his Department has received from the Keep Our Future Afloat campaign; and whether it has responded. [241849]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During the course of this year the Ministry of Defence has received several representations from the 'Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign'. All letters received a written reply. Additionally, my predecessor as Minister with responsibility for Defence Equipment and Support, my noble Friend Baroness Taylor of Bolton, met representatives of the group in July.

Stress

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illnesses in each of the last 24 months. [242067]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD reports sickness absence figures over a 12 month period on a quarterly basis and does not report working days lost on a monthly basis. The MOD does not have a specific sickness absence code for stress. Stress falls within the mental and behavioural disorders ICD10 category, which includes anxiety, depression and stress. The following table shows the number of working days lost for Ministry of Defence civilian personnel[1] which was attributed to the mental and behavioural disorders category for the 12 month period preceding each quarter point.

Total working days lost due to mental and behavioural disorders in the preceding 12 month period

Year ending	Industrial	Non-industrial	Total
30 June 2007	24,530	102,790	127,320
30 September 2007	25,510	102,990	128,500
31 December 2007	25,380	99,570	124,950
31 March 2008	22,720	94,100	116,820
30 June 2008	20,770	87,720	108,490

[1] This includes all permanent and casual non-industrial and industrial civilian personnel, but excludes locally engaged civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for all periods and trading fund personnel prior to 1 January 2008.

Note:

From 1 January 2008, due to a change in definitions personnel classed as on zero pay absences are excluded.

Territorial Army: Pay

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much back pay was owing to Territorial Army soldiers who have undertaken active service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan at the latest date for which figures are available; what steps are being taken to clear the backlog; and if he will make a statement. [241277]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, there are no known systematic problems with any back pay owed to TA soldiers who have undertaken active service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Where isolated errors are notified by individuals, SPVA take immediate action to rectify the situation.

Trident Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the maintenance cost of Trident submarines in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [241354]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The estimated maintenance costs of Vanguard class submarines in 2008-09 and each of the next five years, which cover fleet maintenance and capital spend incurred as part of the long overhaul period (refuel) (LOP-R) maintenance programme, are:

	Total (£ million)
2008-09	95
2009-10	134
2010-11	152
2011-12	123
2012-13	105
2013-14	101

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conclusions her Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240999]

Mr. Khan: The conclusions the Department has reached to fulfil its disability equality duty are outlined in our Disability Equality Scheme Annual Report published in February 2008, which is available on our website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/disabilityequalityscheme2008

An update on progress on these actions will be published, as explained in that document, as part of our Department's Single Annual Report on Equalities. We intend to do this in spring 2009.

The Secretary of State's report on Disability, published on 1 December, also reports on progress made towards disability equality by public authorities in our policy sectors. The report is available on our website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/disabilityequality2008

Departmental Rail Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expense claims the right hon. Member for Don Valley made whilst Minister of State for Housing in each month from January to October 2008 in respect of rail journeys; how many rail tickets were claimed for; how many journeys were claimed for; and what the sum claimed was. [242257]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) made one expense claim during the period January to October 2008. This was in June 2008, a single ticket for £178.

Empty Property: Business Premises

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of commercial premises that were empty in each month since May 1997. [241540]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1493W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of leasing and maintaining each regional fire control centre *(a)* has been since becoming operational and *(b)* was in the latest month for which figures are available. [241299]

Mr. Khan: The running costs for the eight regional control centres (RCCs) which have completed their commissioning process—'practical completion'—are shown for October, broken down by region, in the following table.

Region	*Running costs (£)*
NE	143,904
EM	143,899
SW	140,839
WM	113,463
SE	46,142
NW	36,920
Y and H	48,558
EoE	84,617

These eight buildings are in the process of being fitted out, including installing the IT hardware, AV screens and furniture. Note, the range reflects the relative stages of completion. Therefore, no regional control centre is yet operational.

In the interim the buildings are used for a range of purposes including Fire and Rescue Service meetings and workshops to progress FiReControl work. In many cases the regional project team works out of the RCC.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the replacement system for the fire service emergency cover risk management system to be *(a)* installed and *(b)* fully operational. [241301]

Mr. Khan: Under Fire Control, the risk management toolkit will replace the fire service emergency cover toolkit and will be rolled out prior to the point at which there is an FRS cut-over.

Fires: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information she holds on the number of deaths caused by fire in *(a)* houses of multiple occupation, *(b)* the private rented sector, *(c)* the council/social rented sector and *(d)* private houses in each year for which figures are available. [241434]

Mr. Khan: The Department holds data for the UK on the number of deaths caused by fire, including by type of accommodation, and whether it was a multiple occupancy dwelling. Data are not collected by type of tenure. Comparable data are available since 1994. Data for England are shown in the following table.

Fire deaths in England, 1994 to 2007

	All dwellings	Multiple occupancy dwellings			Unspecified
		All	Houses	Flats, maisonettes, etc.	
1994	376	119	7	81	31
1995	428	143	13	80	50
1996	428	145	8	86	51
1997	432	144	18	86	40
1998	383	140	14	94	32
1999	334	116	9	89	18
2000	351	112	11	73	28
2001	358	120	9	82	29
2002	310	110	6	83	21
2003	344	118	9	84	25
2004	268	91	7	68	16
2005	289	103	8	74	21
2006	287	82	9	52	21
2007 (provisional)	240	74	5	59	10

Green Belt

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of greenbelt land there were in each region in England in each year since 1997. [240887]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The area of green belt land in each region in England in each year since 1997 for which data have been collected is set out in the following table. The figures are in hectares.

Figures after 2005 exclude 47,300 hectares of land that were re-designated as New Forest National Park. National Park status confers a higher status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty than green belt. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given weight in planning decisions in these areas. Therefore figures for 2006 and 2007 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Area of designated green belt land by region

Hectares

Region	1997	2003	2004	2006	2007
North East	53,040	66,330	71,910	71,910	73,000
North West	249,490	260,610	260,590	260,310	260,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	276,720	262,640	262,640	264,930	264,450
East Midlands	62,730	79,520	79,480	78,900	79,000
West Midlands	273,900	269,140	269,460	269,260	268,770
East Anglia	26,690	26,690	26,750	26,300	26,270
London/wider South East	549,330	600,470	601,410	[1]553,890	[1]554,240
South West	157,740	106,180	105,950	106,330	109,640
England[1]	1,649,640	1,671,580	1,678,190	[1]1,631,830	[1]1,635,670

[1] This figure excludes green belt in New Forest DC and Test Valley BC (47,300 hectares) which have subsequently been designated as New Forest National Park in 2005.

Note:

1 hectare = 2.471 acres.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Statistical Releases: Green Belt Statistics, England

Ordnance Survey

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in enabling data held by Ordnance Survey in vector format to be used by other parties, including on a commercial basis. [240499]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The HM Treasury/Shareholder Executive assessment of trading funds has considered the potential for innovation and growth from increasing commercial and other use of public sector information including Ordnance Survey vector data. It will shortly publish some key principles for the re-use of this information, and consider how these should be applied to ensure that Government policy is fully reflected in practice.

As part of the assessment, Ordnance Survey is in the process of undertaking a strategic review of its operations and underlying business model. The aim is for Ordnance Survey data (including vector data) to be made more freely available for exploitation for the benefit of the wider UK economy. Further details will be announced in due course.

In the meantime Ordnance Survey will continue to enable users of all types to access a wide range of vector datasets through its normal licensing arrangements.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what income Ordnance Survey received from each local authority in England and Wales in 2007; and what percentage of Ordnance Survey's income in that year was accounted for by work for local authorities. [240500]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* For reasons of commercial confidentiality income derived from each local authority is not published. However, Ordnance Survey's total direct revenue from the local government sector (including fire and police services, national park authorities and other sector bodies) in England, Scotland and Wales for the year ended 31 March 2008, was £21.26 million. This represented 18 per cent. of Ordnance Survey's total turnover. A significant proportion of local government income came from the local authority Mapping Services Agreement (MSA), a collective purchasing agreement competitively tendered by Local Government Information House Ltd. (LGIH) on behalf of local government. Apportionment of the single charge for each data lot in the MSA tender to individual local authorities is determined by LGIH.

Since the MSA is currently subject to an active re-tendering process, release of further detailed information about the value contributed by individual local authorities could be prejudicial to the conduct of the tender process.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1276W, on regeneration: coastal areas, whether her cross-departmental working group on coastal towns held discussions with hon. Members whose constituencies include seaside towns. [241511]

John Healey: No discussions have taken place so far, but the cross-departmental working group on coastal towns would be keen to hear from hon. Members whose knowledge and expertise could help to better inform action on improving outcomes in coastal towns.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1276W, on regeneration: coastal areas, whether hon. Members whose constituencies include seaside towns were consulted in connection with the regeneration framework consultation. [241643]

John Healey: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, made a written statement to the House on 17 July 2008 before she published 'Transforming Places; changing lives: a framework for regeneration'. A copy of the consultation document was made available in the Library. The document was also sent to all local authority chief executives in England.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions were made about levels of *(a)* activity in the housing market and *(b)* employment when drawing up the South West Spatial Strategy; and if she will assess the effects of the (i) economic downturn and (ii) turbulence in the banking sector on the strategy. [241379]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The regional spatial strategy focuses on the long-term—a strategy to deliver sustainable development in the region over the next 15-20 years—to provide long term supply of housing needed to meet the demand for new homes and to address the long term shortages which affect affordability. Despite the current economic climate the medium- to long-term need for housing in the South West remains high.

In proposing changes to the overall housing provision, the Secretary of State had regard, among other things, to: the independent examining panel's recommendations; the Housing Green Paper "Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable"; further advice from the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit; ONS Household Projections; and assessments of economic growth potential. The full reasons for the proposed changes to the overall housing provision are set out in the schedule of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes and Reasons, published in July 2008. The Secretary of State is currently considering responses to the consultation on the proposed changes.

Rents

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of rent for a the average cost of commercial property in each month since May 1997; what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the removal of empty property tax relief on commercial property rents; and if she will make a statement. [241551]

John Healey: An impact assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on the 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Right to Buy Scheme: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority stock in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* Vale of York constituency was sold under the Right to Buy scheme in each year since 1997. [241973]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of local authority Right to Buy sales in North Yorkshire and in the City of York, for each year since 1997-98. We have taken North Yorkshire to comprise the districts of Selby, Harrogate, Craven, Richmondshire, Hambleton, Ryedale, Scarborough and York. Information on Right to Buy sales by constituency is not available centrally, but as Vale of York constituency includes the City of York we have included sales figures for York as well.

	North Yorkshire	City of York
1997-98	471	152
1998-99	401	[1]99
1999-2000	688	[1]108
2000-01	541	186
2001-02	636	171
2002-03	847	188
2003-04	570	127
2004-05	215	65
2005-06	113	35
2006-07	69	36
2007-08	51	28

[1] Data not reported for all four quarters of the financial year, therefore figure cannot be used for comparison over time or with other areas. The 1998-99 figure for the City of York is from three quarterly returns, the 1999-2000 figures from two quarterly returns.

Note:

The figures shown for the City of York are as reported, and do not include estimates for missing returns. Figures for North Yorkshire include imputed figures for missing quarterly returns from any of the local authorities in North Yorkshire.

Source:

Quarterly P1B returns from Local Authorities

Four of the North Yorkshire local districts have transferred their housing stock to registered social landlords, and consequently do not have any housing stock to sell through the Right to Buy scheme. Hambleton and Ryedale transferred their stock before 1997-98, Craven in March 2003, and Scarborough in December 2003.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Discrimination

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of each response to the discrimination law review consultation. [240817]

Maria Eagle: We received over 4,000 responses to our consultation "A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain", which were carefully considered. The Government's response to the consultation (Cm 7454) provides a summary of the responses and sets out the measures we intend to include in the Equality Bill. The response was published on 21 July 2008. A copy is available on the website of the Government Equalities Office at the following web address:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/Government_Response_to_the_consultation.pdf.

The responses to the consultation received from organisations have also been published on the GEO website.

Domestic Violence

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government is taking to reduce levels of domestic violence. [240280]

Maria Eagle: The Government have produced a cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan which provides a strategic framework to address domestic violence. We have taken a range of action to reduce levels of domestic violence including establishing 104 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) and plan to reach 128 by 2011. We have provided over £6 million this financial year to support the roll-out of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences across England and Wales linked to these SDVCs. IDVAs provide invaluable support to victims of domestic violence. Evidence shows that incidents of victimisation decrease and victims are less likely to withdraw from cases.

There has been significant progress in reducing the levels of domestic violence. There has been a 58 per cent. decline in the incidence of domestic violence between 1997 and 2007-08, as measured by the British Crime Survey. Further, the success rate on prosecuting domestic violence continues to improve. In December 2003 only 46 per cent. of domestic violence prosecutions resulted in conviction. By September 2008 this figure had increased to 72.1 per cent.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242622]

Mr. McFadden: 4 December 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Insolvency: Hotels

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* hotels and *(b)* bed and breakfast establishments that have declared themselves insolvent since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [240335]

Mr. McFadden: Statistics are only available for "Hotels" and only available from Q3 2007 on a consistent basis. The following table records the number of "hotels" that have entered into an insolvency procedure in each quarter since 2007 Q3 in England and Wales.

	2007		2008		
Insolvency procedure	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*
Compulsory Liquidations	6	8	7	12	n/a
Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation	10	8	3	11	13
Receiverships	2	1	3	2	0
Administration	0	4	8	5	2

	2007		2008		
Insolvency procedure	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*
Company Voluntary Arrangements	0	0	1	3	1
Bankruptcy Orders for self-employed individuals	7	11	14	6	n/a

Notes:
1. The business activity of an insolvent company or small trader is classified according to Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC2003). This does not separately identify bed and breakfast establishments, but it is likely that some of these will be included under "Hotels" and others under a different SIC Group.
2. There have been changes over recent years to the classification and extent of sectoral information collected and analysed. Consistent data are only readily available on a quarterly basis from 2007 Q3.
3. Companies may enter consecutively into more than one type of insolvency procedure. For example, an establishment may enter into Administration, but subsequently become the subject of a Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation. This means that counts should not be summed to a total number of company insolvencies in the sector.
4. Data for Compulsory Liquidations and for self-employed bankruptcies for 2008 Q3 are not yet available.

Insolvency: Leisure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies involved in the leisure industry went into *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary (i) administration and (ii) liquidation in each region of England and Wales in each of the last five years. [240653]

Mr. McFadden: There is insufficient, detailed information held centrally, and in a readily available format, to provide an answer to this question. This is because:

(1) Corporate insolvency statistics are not currently available for Government office regions within England and Wales.

(2) There is no consistent information on the industry sector of insolvent companies for the period requested.

(3) Corporate insolvency information has more than one source, and there are differences between these in the information available for industry sectors.

(4) The current standard industrial classification (SIC) does not enable the "leisure industry" to be readily defined.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 30 October 2008 and transferred to his Department on 4 November, on the Employment Bill. [241385]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 12 November.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions since June 2003 the Office of Fair Trading has not responded to a super complaint within 90 days. [241616]

Mr. Thomas: This is a matter for the independent Office of Fair Trading. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member directly.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much and what proportion of the Office of Fair Trading's budget was spent on the investigation of super complaints in each of the last three years; [241650]

(2) which super complaints have been made to the Office of Fair Trading under section 11 of the Enterprise Act 2002 in each calendar year since June 2003; what estimate he has made of the cost of investigating each complaint in each such year; how long each investigation took; what the outcome of each investigation was; and what subsequent action was taken. [241651]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* These are matters for the independent Office of Fair Trading. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member directly.

Office of Fair Trading: Research

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to individual businesses of being involved in Office of Fair Trading market studies; and if he will make a statement; [242090]

(2) what percentage of the Office of Fair Trading's current workload is comprised of market studies; and what proportion of its budget was spent on such studies in the last 12 months; [242091]

(3) how many market studies of public sector activities have been undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading since 2003; [242092]

(4) how many market studies have been undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading since January 2003, broken down by market; what the cost was of each study; and what the outcomes were of each study. [242284]

Mr. Thomas: These are matters for the independent Office of Fair Trading. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member directly.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1149W, on trade unions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of 26 June. [242038]

Mr. McFadden: It is not the practice of the Department to place the minutes of private meetings with business or other organisations in the House Libraries.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what records her Office maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240460]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office records its expenditure on official hospitality on our accounts system and copies of relevant receipts and invoices are filed. Separate records are not kept for alcohol nor individual items.

Essex Crown Prosecution Service: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many complaints have been made against Essex Crown Prosecution Service in each year since 1997. [241160]

The Solicitor-General: The number of complaints recorded by CPS Essex each year since 1998 is shown in the following table. Complete figures are not available for 1997. The figures shown represent all the letters of complaint received and replied to by CPS Essex. They do not indicate the outcome of the complaint, whether the CPS was at fault or whether the correspondence was forwarded to another appropriate agency to deal with.

	CPS Prosecution Service[1]	*42 areas*	*CPS Essex*
1998-99	2,288	2,017	25
1999-2000	2,565	2,168	41
2000-01	2,840	2,431	53
2001-02	2,990	2,274	90
2002-03	3,093	2,172	73
2003-04	3,949	2,190	105
2004-05	3,739	2,481	105
2005-06	4,616	3,178	72
2006-07	4,166	2,505	109
2007-08	4,555	2,252	87

[1] Incl. Casework Directorate

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions sought by police for offences relating to electoral fraud were not proceeded with by the Crown Prosecution Service in the last 36 months. [241680]

The Solicitor-General: The records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) comprise information at defendant level rather than at specific offence level, and include no data identifying decisions not to proceed in cases of electoral fraud, either as regards the pre-charge decision phase or post-charge prosecutions. The information may be held on individual case files, but could only be retrieved by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office and would incur disproportionate cost.

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Law Officers have been asked for advice on the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in the last two months. [242228]

The Solicitor-General: By long-standing convention, observed by successive Administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers have advised (or have not advised) on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside government.

Road Traffic Offences: Electronic Vehicles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions she has had with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the prosecution of users of personal transporters on public highways; what guidance is used by the CPS on that matter; and how many such prosecutions have taken place. [240390]

The Solicitor-General: I have had no recent discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on the prosecution of users of personal transporters, also known as self balancing scooters, on public highways.

However, I can confirm that the Department for Transport considers that powered personal transporters are subject to road traffic legislation and that the CPS has no specific guidance on prosecuting offences involving these vehicles.

Were the police to refer a case involving the use of one of these vehicles to the CPS, the matter would be reviewed in the same way as any other road traffic prosecution.

The CPS does not keep figures on the numbers of prosecutions that have been brought in relation to the use of these vehicles.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department took account of the effects of the Hyde Amendment restricting US federal funding of abortion in preparing the partial regulatory impact assessment on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [241142]

Dawn Primarolo: Only legislation pertaining to the laws governing abortion in Great Britain was considered as part of the partial regulatory impact assessment on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Public Health National Support Team on alcohol harm reduction has started its work. [240378]

Dawn Primarolo: The Alcohol Harm Reduction National Support Team commenced visiting areas with the highest rates of alcohol related hospital admissions in September 2008. Four visits have been completed.

Visits are planned to 48 primary care trusts in total between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Children in Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the health of children in care. [241151]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Children: Disabled

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to improve the standard of assistance provided by the NHS to parents of disabled children. [241344]

Ann Keen: The service transformation programme 'Aiming High for disabled children' (AHDC) sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place disabled children's services at the centre of local children's service provision. Supported by substantial new funding and measures designed to make the system work better, the AHDC programme aims to deliver access and empowerment for disabled children and families, responsive services and timely support, and improved service quality and capacity. The AHDC programme will provide assistance to parents through a variety of new initiatives—from a full service 'core offer', to parents forums and new performance management arrangements that will hold local authorities and primary care trusts to account for the services they provide to families. By 2011, parents of disabled children and young people should be able to report a more favourable experience of these services.

Chlamydia: Screening

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been screened under the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. [240374]

Dawn Primarolo: During the period 1 April 2003, when the National Chlamydia Screening programme was launched, to the end of September 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of 962,919 screens have been undertaken. The data are for the number of screens carried out not the number of people screened.

Community Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision by the NHS of choice between active patient care and care at home for those with long-term conditions; and if he will make a statement. [240908]

Ann Keen: The information requested is as follows.

'Supporting people with long term conditions to Self Care—A guide to developing local strategies and good practice' (24 February 2006) sets out four key areas in which people need support (skills and training, information, tools and devices and support networks) and gives examples of good practice together with the role of professionals and PCTs/Trusts in supporting people to self care.

'Your Health, your way—a guide to long-term conditions and self care' was launched on the NHS Choices website on 2 November 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.nhs.uk/yourhealth/Pages/Homepage.aspx

This is the public face of the aforementioned policy and provides people living with long term conditions with information about the choices that should be available to them locally (by April 2009 if they are not available already) to support them to self care in partnership with health and social care professionals.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* locations, *(b)* costs and *(c)* planned opening date is of each hospital planned to be built under his Department's community hospitals programme; [241100]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend in each of the next three financial years under the community hospitals programme; [241341]

(3) what the *(a)* location, *(b)* cost and *(c)* date of opening of each hospital built to date under his Department's community hospitals programme is. [241342]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have given the go ahead to 28 schemes, which are listed in the following table.

We are currently giving consideration to the Department's capital programme budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11, and in connection with this process, we will take into account which additional schemes are ready to progress and might be funded.

Hospital	*Department of Health contribution (£ million)*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Completion date—actual/projected*
Felixstowe Community Hospital	1.8	1.8	January 2008
Ashfield Primary Care Centre, Nottingham	1.1	1.1	April 2008
Rotherham Primary Care Centre	1.0	1.0	February 2009
Hartlepool primary Care Centre	3.0	3.0	March 2009
Royal South Hants Community Hospital	6.1	6.1	April 2009
Washington Primary Care Centre	9.0	9.4	May 2009
Hornsey Community Hospital	1.7	2.4	May/June 2009
Gosport War Memorial Hospital	6.1	6.4	July 2009
Keynsham Health Park, North Somerset	5.0	6.9	September 2009
Teddington Community Hospital	4.0	4.5	September 2009
Yate Community Hospital	5.0	12.4	November 2009
St Charles Community Hospital, Kensington	3.7	8.8	March 2010

Hospital	*Department of Health contribution (£ million)*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Completion date—actual/projected*
Calderdale and Kirklees Hospitals (Calderdale Royal, Holme Valley Memorial, Central Halifax and Princess Royal Hospitals)	13.8	29.2	From March 2010 to November 20011
Barking Community Hospital	5.0	8.2	April 2010
Station Plaza Community Health Centre, Hastings	12.3	15.5	Spring 2010
South Bristol Community Hospital	3.9	30	August 2010
Moreton and Bourton Community Hospitals, North Cotswolds	13.2	15.8	Autumn 2010
Malvern Community Hospital	19.2	19.2	September 2010
Minehead Community Hospital	24.5	26	November 2010
Eltham and Mottingham Community Hospital	4.6	14.6	January 2011
Thame Community Hospital	4.0	5.1	Early 2011
Dursley (Gloucestershire) Health and Social Care Campus	6.4	7.9	April 2011
Selby Primary & Community Care Centre	13.0	15.6	Summer 2011
Stockport (St Thomas') Community Hospital	20.1	29.5	Summer 2011
East Riding (Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield Community Hospitals)	20.0	26.0	From November 2011
King's Avenue (Ashford) Community Hospital	9.0	13.1	Autumn 2011
Finchley Memorial Hospital	9.9	48.7	March 2012
St Mary's Community Hospital, Portsmouth	17.1	17.1	Spring 2012
Total	243.4	385.2	

Figures may not tally with total due to rounding.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's workforce planning assumptions used to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [241150]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not publish planning assumptions relating to the comprehensive spending review.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240470]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's central financial recording system captures information on expenditure under the headings of 'working lunches' and 'hospitality'. No separate records of expenditure on alcohol are maintained.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on cancelled private finance initiative projects since 1997; what the project was in each case; and on what date each such project was cancelled. [241339]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1997 the Department has agreed compensation payments in respect of abortive bidding costs at two private finance initiative (PFI) schemes, either as a direct result of a cancellation or at a scheme which later went on to be cancelled. Details of the payments are:

£7.3 million in respect of the Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust PFI scheme cancelled in June 2006; the Department paid the full amount directly to the bidders in March 2007; and

£9.1 million in respect of abortive costs resulting from the decision of the Department's PFI review in August 2006 to reduce the scope of the University of Leicester Hospitals NHS Trust scheme. 80 per cent. of the settlement—£7.2 million—was met by the Department and paid to the trust for disbursement via an adjustment to the local primary care trusts (PCTs) revenue allocations in May 2007. The trust contributed £2.1 million. The scheme was subsequently cancelled in July 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital value is of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department which has reached financial close; and, for each such scheme, *(a)* over what period repayments will take place and *(b)* what the cost of repayment will be expressed in (i) real and (ii) cash terms. [241340]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on national consultations in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [240552]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information centrally about the costs of public consultations. Information on the Department's expenditure on public consultations can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which staff members attended his Department's departmental board away day held on 11 and 12 September 2008; and how much was claimed in total in expenses relating to the away day by such staff. [241147]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following departmental staff attended the departmental board away day on 11 and 12 September 2008:

Hugh Taylor (Permanent Secretary)
David Nicholson (NHS Chief Executive)
Liam Donaldson (Chief Medical Officer)
David Behan (Director General Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships)
Richard Douglas (Director General for Finance and Chief Operating Officer)
Richard Mundon (Director of Operations)
Ralph Coulbeck (Policy Adviser, Office of NHS Chief Executive)
Alison Ismail (Principal Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary)
Stephen Mitchell (Head of Governance).

The total amount of expenses claimed by those who attended the away day was £626.20. This includes train fares to and from the hotel.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where his Department's departmental board away day which took place on 11 and 12 September 2008 was held. [241148]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's departmental board away day held on 11 and 12 September 2008 was held at Great Fosters hotel, Stroude road, Egham, Surrey TW20 9UR.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of his Department's departmental board away day held on 11 and 12 September 2008. [241149]

Mr. Bradshaw: No formal minutes were produced of the departmental board away day, held on 11 and 12 September. An informal note was produced, and this, with the agenda, has been placed in the Library.

Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients on the diabetes register there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [240296]

Ann Keen: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice diabetes registers, and counts are available for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. The figures are available by primary care trust (PCT). The diabetes register only includes patients aged 17 years and over, as the care of children with diabetes is generally under the control of specialists.

2007-08 data are contained in 'PCT level QOF tables', which has been placed in the Library. It is also available at the following link:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2007/08/data-tables

The table in question can be found in the section 'PCT level QOF tables' at this link: 'PCT level QOF tables 2007/08—prevalence.xls'.

2006-07 data are contained in 'PCT QOF tables', which has been placed in the Library. It is also available at the following link:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2006/07/qof-2006-07-data-tables

The table in question can be found in the section 'PCT QOF tables' at this link: 'PCT QOF tables 2006-07—prevalance.xls'.

2005-06 data are contained in 'Disease prevalence at PCT level', which has been placed in the Library. It is also available at the following link:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2005/06/qof-2005-06-detailed-spreadsheets

The table in question can be found in the section 'QOF Achievement Data at General Practice Level' at this link: 'Disease prevalence at PCT level'.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England with (i) type one diabetes and (ii) type two diabetes in each year since 1997. [241971]

Ann Keen: The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on general practice diabetes registers in England. As the care of children with diabetes is generally under the control of specialists, the register excludes those patients age 16 and under.

The following table shows the number of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes recorded on diabetes registers from 2004-05 to 2007-08, for the years for which data are available.

Quality and outcomes framework (QOF) diabetes register counts[1]

Financial year	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North Yorkshire and York PCT[2]	22,777	24,346	25,682	27,329
England	1,766,391	1,890,666	1,961,976	2,088,335

[1] The diabetes registers make no distinction between type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

[2] The figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are the sum of the diabetes registers for the health areas that make up the North Yorkshire area, the details of which are given as follows:
Craven, Harrogate and Rural District;
Hambleton and Richmondshire;
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale; and
Selby and York.

Diabetes: Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the three pilots undertaken as part of the Diabetes Year of Care Project. [240360]

Ann Keen: The three Year of Care pilot areas, Calderdale and Kirklees primary care trusts (PCTs), Tower Hamlets PCT and NHS North of Tyne, have now completed the first phase of the three-year project, which has focused on preparing systems and workforce to enable the delivery of the Year of Care approach. The pilots are now beginning to deliver the Year of Care programme to people with diabetes in their area.

In October 2008 the Year of Care team launched "Getting to grips with the Year of Care: a practical guide" to help spread the learning acquired during the preparatory phase. An evaluation report, "Evaluating pilot sites as they prepare for the Year of Care: Final project report", is also available. This document has been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people residing in London are estimated to have used *(a)* Class A drugs and *(b)* any illegal drugs in the last year for which figures are available. [240586]

Dawn Primarolo: According to the 2007-08 British Crime Survey (BCS), 3.7 per cent. of the population aged 16-59 years of age in London reported use of any Class A drug in the last year and 9.2 per cent. reported use of any illicit drug in the last year. It is not possible to provide robust estimates of the number of 16 to 59-year-olds who have taken drugs in London from the BCS.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drugs-related hospital admissions were recorded in London in each of the last five years. [240587]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is in the following table. The system of diagnostic codes used to classify admission to hospital does not distinguish between recreational, illicit misuse or medical use of drugs. The diagnostic codes used are listed in the following table.

	Number of total admissions
2006-07	25,782
2005-06	25,148
2004-05	21,938
2003-04	18,810
2002-03	16,069

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. The ICD-10 codes used to identify a drug related diagnosis are as follows. It is not possible to identify in ICD-10 all diseases caused by drugs (legal or illegal) and there is no way to guarantee, that the admission was drug related. For example, a patient admitted for inguinal hernia surgery may also be dependent on a drug.

F11—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
F12—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids
F13—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics
F14—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine
F15—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine
F16—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens
F18—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents
F19—Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances
F55—Abuse of non-dependence-producing substances
K71.0—Toxic liver disease with cholestasis
K71.1—Toxic liver disease with hepatic necrosis
K71.2—Toxic liver disease with acute hepatitis
K71.3—Toxic liver disease with chronic persistent hepatitis
K71.4—Toxic liver disease with chronic lobular hepatitis
K71.5—Toxic liver disease with chronic active hepatitis
K71.6—Toxic liver disease with hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K71.7—Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
K71.8—Toxic liver disease with other disorders of liver
K71.9—Toxic liver disease, unspecified
T36—Poisoning by systemic antibiotics
T37—Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
T38—Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39—Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
T40—Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens)
T41—Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42—Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
T43—Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44—Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45—Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48—Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
T49—Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50—Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
T52—Toxic effect of organic solvents
T53—Toxic effect of halogen derivatives of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons
T54—Toxic effect of corrosive substances
T55—Toxic effect of soaps and detergents
T56—Toxic effect of metals
T57—Toxic effect of other inorganic substances
T58—Toxic effect of carbon monoxide
T59—Toxic effect of other gases, fumes and vapours
T60—Toxic effect of pesticides
T61—Toxic effect of noxious substances eaten as seafood
T62—Toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food
T63—Toxic effect of contact with venomous animals
T64—Toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants
T65—Toxic effect of other and unspecified substances
X40—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X41—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X42—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens), not elsewhere classified
X43—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X44—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X46—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X47—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X48—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X49—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
X60—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X61—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X62—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens), not elsewhere classified
X63—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X64—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X66—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X67—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X68—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X69—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
Y40—Systemic antibiotics
Y41—Other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
Y42—Hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
Y43—Primarily systemic agents
Y44—Agents primarily affecting blood constituents
Y45—Analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs
Y46—Antiepileptic and antiparkinsonism drugs
Y47—Sedatives, hypnotics and antianxiety drugs
Y48—Anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
Y49—Psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
Y50—Central nervous system stimulants, not elsewhere classified
Y51—Drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
Y52—Agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
Y53—Agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
Y54—Agents primarily affecting water-balance and mineral and uric acid metabolism
Y55—Agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
Y56—Topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
Y57—Other and unspecified drugs and medicaments
Y58—Bacterial vaccines
Y59—Other and specified vaccines and biological substances
T80.0—Air embolism following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection

T80.1—Vascular complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.2—Infections following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.8—Other complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.9—Unspecified complication following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T88.0—Infection following immunisation
T88.1—Other complications following immunisation, not elsewhere classified
T88.2—Shock due to anaesthesia
T88.3—Malignant hyperthermia due to anaesthesia
T88.5—Other complications of anaesthesia
T88.6—Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered
T88.7—Unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament
Z71.5—Drug abuse counselling and surveillance
T96.X—Sequelae of poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances

3. London Strategic Health Authority of Treatment: In 2006-07 London as a whole was a strategic health authority (SHA). Pre 2006-07 London was made up of five SHAs.
2006-07: London SHA
Pre 2006-07: North West London; North Central London; North East London; South East London; South West London

4. Ungrossed Data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

East Riding of Yorkshire PCT

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on changing the name of the East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust to NHS East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [240553]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

General Practitioners

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in each of the regions had at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away in the last year. [240540]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in each of the regions was single-handed in each of the last two years. [240541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average practice list size was for *(a)* GPs and *(b)* dentists in each region in each of the last two years. [240542]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average general practice list size, by strategic health authority (SHA), as at 30 September 2007 is shown in the following table.

Average general practice list size by SHA as at 30 September 2007

	Total number of general practitioners practices	*Average practice list size*
North East	394	6,681
North West	1,272	5,679
Yorkshire and Humber	807	6,603
East Midlands	627	7,134
West Midlands	965	5,890
East of England	769	7,417
London	1,546	5,441
South East Coast	644	6,918
South Central	503	8,363
South West	734	7,252

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The Department does not collect these data for the Northern Ireland regions.

List size data for dental practices are not held centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 113 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, what the location is of each GP surgery to be upgraded into a training practice; [241106]

(2) with reference to page 113 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, how the £100 million for upgrading GP surgeries to training practices will be allocated. [241107]

Mr. Bradshaw: These are early days and quite rightly no full and final decisions have been made yet. The decisions need to be made with the full involvement of all parties concerned, and we will ensure that this happens, so that we achieve the maximum benefits and direct investment to address health inequalities.

Genetics

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 17 new trials approved by the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee were in 2007-08. [241349]

Dawn Primarolo: The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) approved 17 new trials over its last annual reporting period of January to December 2007. Four of these trials were in cancer research, nine were addressing infectious diseases, two were potential treatments for cardiovascular diseases and two were studies of inherited disorders. Further details on these trials are in the "Fourteenth Annual Report" of GTAC, which has been placed in the Library. Details of trials approved by GTAC in 2008 will be included in its next annual report, due for publication in 2009.

Headaches

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working population who suffer from migraine or other headache disorders; [241418]

(2) if he will estimate the number of people in employment who experience migraine or other headache disorders. [241421]

Ann Keen: We have no estimates, or plans to make such estimates, of the proportion of the working population living with migraine or headache disorders.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist headache disorder nurses there are in England; and in which hospitals or health centres they are based. [241544]

Ann Keen: Nursing staff working for the national health service who specialise in treating or diagnosing headaches are not identified in the NHS Workforce Census. There are a variety of causes of headache and if a cause can be identified then the care of the patient will follow the appropriate clinical pathway.

In April 2003 the College of General Practitioners and the Department of Health issued joint guidance "Guidelines for the Appointment of General Practitioners With Special Interests in the Delivery of Clinical Service—Headaches". This guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on health centres, what steps are being taken against primary care trusts whose plans for *(a)* a new GP-led health centre and *(b)* new GP practices do not meet core criteria; [240668]

(2) for each primary care trust whose plans for a new *(a)* GP-led health centre and *(b)* GP practice do not meet core criteria, what the reasons are for this being the case. [240669]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strategic health authorities have provided assurances via performance management discussions with the Department that none of the General Practitioner (GP)-led health centres or GP practices will not meet the core national criteria aimed at improving patient care and access to services.

Health Professions: Vetting

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether care providers are informed when Criminal Records Bureau checks on their prospective employees are discovered not to have been correctly carried out; what estimate he has made of the number of such checks; and if he will provide compensation to care providers for such cases. [241685]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

All the quality control procedures at the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) are geared to achieving the highest levels of accuracy. In addition, the CRB carries out a post disclosure accuracy check that analyses all aspects of the disclosure application and its issue. This check was introduced in 2007 and is based on a statistical sample of disclosure applications and from that sample it can be ascertained that the accuracy rate for 2006-07 is 99.94 per cent. and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent. No comparative data are available before these dates and the CRB does not collate information by specific employment sectors, such as the care sector or providers.

If, as a result of this additional check, the CRB needs to correct a disclosure, it does so free of charge to the employer and the applicant.

As with any public sector organisation, the CRB operates a Redress Scheme where there has been evidence of maladministration on its part.

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in responding to the recommendations contained in the report of the group chaired by Professor Mayur Lakhani on primary care for black and minority ethnic people; and if he will make a statement. [241347]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the GP Access Programme, the Department has sought to engage primary care trusts and general practitioner (GP) practices in improving access for people with the poorest experience such as patients from black and minority ethnic groups. In 2008, the national GP Patient survey showed that patients from a black and minority ethnic group had seen the biggest improvement in their experience of accessing GPs with whom they are registered. Nevertheless, more needs, and can be, done to improve access for such patients. We are continuing to work with strategic health authorities to collate and share the best practice that exists within the national health service in order to support implementation of Professor Mayur Lakhani's recommendations. We expect to see continued improvements in patient experience and satisfaction with the access they receive to general practices as reported through the national GP Patient Survey.

Health: Disadvantaged

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the public service agreement target to reduce health inequalities by 10 per cent. by 2010. [240376]

Dawn Primarolo: The national health inequalities Public Service Agreement target aims to reduce inequalities in health by 10 per cent. by 2010, as measured by infant mortality (by socio-economic group) and life expectancy at birth (by geographical area).

The latest assessment, based on 2005 to 2007 data, shows that:

> For infant mortality, there has been a slight narrowing in the gap between the "routine and manual" group and the population as a whole, compared with last year. The target to narrow this gap by at least 10 per cent. by 2010 is still a challenging one, but if the gap continues to narrow at the rate observed since 2002 to 2004, the infant mortality element of the target will be met.
>
> For life expectancy, the relative gap in life expectancy between Spearhead areas (the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators) and the England average has increased for both males and females since the 1995 to 1997 baseline. The target therefore remains challenging.

A detailed assessment of progress towards the target is contained in "Tackling Health Inequalities: 2005 to 2007 Policy and Data Update for the 2010 National Target" which has been placed in the Library. This document was published on the Department's website on 4 December 2008 at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091414

Health: Screening

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS mid-life life check scheme has commenced. [241351]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has been working with partners including health and social care professionals, academic researchers and experts and end-users to develop national health service LifeCheck for three key stages in people's lives:

Early Years LifeCheck—for people with babies under one-year-old;

Teen LifeCheck—for young people about 11 to 15-years-old; and

Mid-life LifeCheck—for the 45-60 age group.

The NHS Mid-life LifeCheck is expected to commence piloting in early 2009. The pilots will be independently evaluated and subject to the findings, the tool will be revised and rolled out nationally later in 2009.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the multi-site project undertaken by his Department in collaboration with the British Heart Foundation and the British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation to consider costs and reimbursement through the payment by results system for cardiac rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement. [240723]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Payment by Results development site project being led by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and the British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation (BACR) is making good progress in examining the basis on which cardiac rehabilitation services should be funded.

Progress to date includes helping to define what constitutes 'best practice' cardiac rehabilitation services, identifying options for the coding of cardiac rehabilitation activity, and collecting cost and activity data from a number of sites over a four-month period.

Further data collection and evaluation is needed before a decision can be made on a timescale for implementing any currency or tariff for cardiac rehabilitation services. In taking that decision, the Department will be guided by the expert opinion of those involved in the development site project.

Helmets: Children

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received in respect of Bolton Primary Care Trust's policy on the prescribing of cranial helmets for children; and if he will make a statement. [240687]

Ann Keen: The Department has received one item of correspondence regarding Bolton primary care trust's (PCT) policy on prescribing cranial helmets from the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen in October 2008.

HIV Infection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which voluntary organisations have received funding from his Department for work to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. [240373]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has funded the following voluntary organisations for work to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination: the National AIDS Trust, the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health and NAM Publications (formerly the National AIDS Manual). Additionally, the Department has provided additional funding to the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy Network to include work on HIV-related stigma in the Department's programme of HIV health promotion for gay men and African communities.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of closed hospital wards which have been re-opened in the last three months. [241548]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals have been closed in *(a)* the East of England, South Central, South East Coast and South West strategic health authorities and *(b)* the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authorities in each year since 2006. [240846]

Ann Keen: Information on hospital closures is not held centrally. It is for national health service organisations to decide locally what constitutes the best configuration of healthcare services and facilities for their populations, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision his Department has made to assist all hospitals in setting up dedicated isolation wards for patients who carry infections. [240744]

Ann Keen: The Department provides guidance on isolation practice but decisions on the provision of isolation facilities are made locally. However, isolation facilities do not have to be designated solely for this purpose and additional isolation facilities can be created to meet transitory demand by using general beds.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the estimated period of protection against cervical cancer afforded by the Cervarix vaccine. [240740]

Dawn Primarolo: The role of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is to advise the Secretary of State for Health and Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Ministers on matters relating to communicable diseases, preventable and potentially preventable through immunisation.

JCVI considered vaccine efficacy data for the Human Papilloma virus vaccines, presented from published papers and as provided by the manufacturers.

At the time of writing the statement (published 18 July 2008) JCVI concluded that both vaccines have a good safety record, and they are highly effective in protecting against the precursors of cervical cancer. Individuals who received the vaccines have been followed for at least six years in clinical trials so far, and the level of antibodies remains at a high level. Based on these high levels, the opinion of the JCVI was that the duration of immunity is expected to be at least 10 years.

A copy of the "JCVI statement on Human Papilloma virus vaccines to protect against cervical cancer" has been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many females between the ages of *(a)* 11 to 14, *(b)* 15 to 17 and *(c)* 18 to 21 years old his Department estimates will be vaccinated with Cervarix in England in the next 12 months. [240751]

Dawn Primarolo: The routine Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme is ongoing and is available to 12 to 13-year-old girls. The routine HPV vaccination programme coincides with the school year and runs from September to September. A three year catch up campaign also commenced in September 08 and will make the HPV vaccine available for 13 to 18-year-olds. Girls aged 17-18 will be offered the HPV vaccine in the 2008-09 school year, girls aged 16-18 in the 2009-10 school year and girls aged 15-17 in the 2010-11 school year.

The Department estimated that there are approximately 300,000 girls in each age cohort in England and primary care trusts should be offering the vaccine to all of these girls.

Women over the age of 18 are not eligible for the HPV vaccine under the national programme. The Department has made no estimate of the number of women of this age who may be vaccinated with Cervarix. Doctors may prescribe the HPV vaccine to women over the age of 18 in exceptional clinical circumstances. HPV vaccines are also available privately.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on procurement and distribution of the Cervarix vaccine. [240753]

Dawn Primarolo: The only cost associated with the procurement of the Cervarix vaccine was for legal advice on the development of the tender documents. This amount was £52,934.59. The individual cost of the vaccine and the total cost to Government is commercial-in-confidence.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) were provided with funding to implement the national programme. A list of allocations per PCT is available from the following web link, which has also been placed in the Library.

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/publications/HPV_DSletter190608.pdf

The Department has a five year storage and distribution contract with Movianto UK. The Human Papillomavirus vaccine is distributed as part of the current distribution arrangements under this contract.

Infectious Diseases

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nosocomial cases of small round-structured viruses there were in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [241054]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available. The best data are from the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) voluntary reporting system for outbreaks. This is not comprehensive but identifies where hospital outbreaks occur and the cases associated with these. Data for the last five years are shown in the following table by HPA region.

Number of people affected in reported hospital outbreaks of norovirus (small round-structured viruses) by HPA region 2004 to 2008

Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Grand total*
East Midlands	55	26	10	9	—	100
East of England	703	435	390	229	32	1,789
London	249	176	74	34	—	533
North East	216	84	—	50	—	350
North West	631	82	—	—	—	713
South East	370	225	7	—	—	602
South West	1,252	228	215	144	25	1,864
West Midlands	21	—	—	33	—	54
Yorkshire and Humber	126	121	23	—	—	270
Grand total	3,623	1,377	719	499	57	6,275

Note:
The number of laboratory reports received underestimates the true number of affected individuals as specimens are not taken from everyone affected during outbreaks of norovirus (clinical diagnoses are often made once it is known that the virus is in circulation).
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Kidney Patients: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children with kidney problems resident in Essex are currently receiving treatment and dialysis at *(a)* Great Ormond Street and *(b)* Evalina at Guy's and St. Thomas's. [241333]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress the Child Health and Maternal Health Intelligence Unit has made towards its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [240732]

Ann Keen: The Child Health and Maternal Health Intelligence Unit was set up as a pilot in May 2008. It has been working well with all strategic health authorities, with primary care trusts and with the Association of Public Health Observatories, whose website it shares. The pilot ends in March 2009 and its future development is being reviewed.

Mental Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the guarantee of choice on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved treatments as outlined in the NHS constitution will apply to mental health treatment guidelines. [240536]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposed NHS constitution right applies to all drugs and treatments that are recommended in technology appraisal guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and covered by the associated funding direction.

MRSA: Screening

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department has issued on the screening of patients for MRSA prior to admission into accident and emergency departments in England. [240742]

Ann Keen: The Department's Saving Lives guidance[1] gives general guidance on screening, referring specifically to emergency orthopaedic and trauma admissions. The guidance issued covering elective patient MRSA screening[2] also includes information relevant to emergency patient screening. Both guidelines have been placed in the Library.

We currently require all relevant elective admissions to be screened for MRSA by April 2009, and all emergency admissions by April 2011. Further guidance will be issued as necessary.

[1] Department of Health (2007). Saving Lives: Reducing infection, delivering clean and safe care. Screening for meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) colonisation.

[2] http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_086687

NHS: Buildings

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his estimate is of the risk-adjusted backlog maintenance cost for the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1997; [241050]

(2) what the maintenance backlog to reach estate code condition B was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [241053]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following tables.

NHS Estates collects data on backlog maintenance annually from national health service trusts through its Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC). It has not been amended centrally and responsibility for its accuracy lies with the contributing NHS organisations. Risk adjusted backlog maintenance was introduced in 2004-05 and therefore not collected prior to that year.

The 28 strategic health authorities were created in 2002-03 and re-organised in 2006-07 into 10. For backlog maintenance data relating to before 2002-03, the national totals have been provided.

National total	*Total backlog maintenance (£ million)*
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,518
2003-04	3,198
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684
2006-07	3,740
2007-08	4,044

National total	*Risk adjusted backlog maintenance (£ million)*
2004-05	1,342
2005-06	1,744
2006-07	1,542
2007-08	1,854

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 28 strategic health authorities	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	177	91	128	130
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	94	82	136	138
Birmingham and the Black Country	244	262	286	360
Cheshire and Merseyside	153	75	53	69
County Durham and Tees Valley	62	29	57	63
Cumbria and Lancashire	97	64	58	58

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 28 strategic health authorities	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Dorset and Somerset	47	10	18	15
Essex	82	76	93	77
Greater Manchester	205	172	117	122
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89	80	102	131
Kent and Medway	106	114	109	151
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	109	118	100	95
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	99	87	63	78
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	72	79	85	93
North Central London	172	189	135	241
North East London	147	174	168	121
North West London	221	344	266	456
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	81	70	76	74
Shropshire and Staffordshire	98	100	94	90
South East London	164	145	119	154
South West London	161	154	176	204
South West Peninsula	41	18	31	70
South Yorkshire	69	46	49	67
Surrey and Sussex	108	85	75	94
Thames Valley	151	106	124	149
Trent	148	151	146	106
West Midlands South SHA	94	90	84	92
West Yorkshire	224	188	193	185
National total	3,518	3,198	3,142	3,684

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 10 strategic health authorities	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	297	285
East of England	290	363
London	1,110	1,106
North East	132	148
North West	309	309
South Central	276	307
South East Coast	249	306
South West	173	249
West Midlands	519	553
Yorkshire and the Humber	383	418
National total	3,740	4,044

£ million

Risk adjusted backlog maintenance by strategic health authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	92	118	65	154
East of England	115	116	107	152
London	346	535	451	489
North East	60	73	58	69
North West	86	108	111	96
South Central	80	115	103	136
South East Coast	121	139	140	159
South West	88	116	76	129
West Midlands	253	296	265	299
Yorkshire and the Humber	101	128	164	211
National total	1,342	1,744	1,542	1,854

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department is undertaking to enable NHS trusts to develop premises and sites which facilitate the provision of modern and accessible healthcare. [241099]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department recognises the important role, which facilities play in the delivery of modern high quality, accessible care, as envisioned by High Quality Care for All. To facilitate a streamlined and timely approach to facilities development, decision-making about the planning and development of all facilities is vested in local health organisations, who can consult and engage with their local communities on key issues to ensure that those facilities meet their specific needs.

At a national level, the Department develops and publishes a suite of best practice guidance on health care facilities, which are made available free of charge to the national health service. It has also developed a range of products and initiatives to support the NHS in the planning and construction of facilities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are collected in the Estates Returns Information Collection on the NHS estate. [241101]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data items collected by the Estates Returns Information Collection system for the latest period 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 120 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, what improvements in NHS estate utilisation are taking place; and what contribution he estimates each will make to efficiency savings in the next 12 months. [241110]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations have devolved responsibility for the efficient utilisation of their assets including the estate. The Department has supported the efficient utilisation of assets by ensuring that NHS organisations disposing of surplus property retain the proceeds for reinvestment. The Department continues to work with the NHS to improve efficiency in all areas.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who were not eligible for free NHS treatment but who received free NHS services in *(a)* Southend Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the costs of providing such services in each area in each year. [241162]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service hospital treatment is only provided free of charge to those people who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or who are exempt from charges under the provisions of the "National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989", as amended. Hospitals have a duty to identify those who are not entitled to free treatment, charge them for that treatment and, where possible, to recover the costs of treating them if treatment has had to be provided to them urgently.

Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of overseas visitors seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the charging regulations nor any costs involved. Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information.

Pathology

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in the reconfiguration of NHS Pathology Services in England; and if he will make a statement. [240917]

Ann Keen: Lord Carter of Coles, chair of the Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services in England, has delivered to Ministers his report on the second phase of the Review's work. The report is due to be published this month, together with the Department's initial response to the Review's recommendations.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the review of prescription charges and exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [240705]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked the President of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review is in its initial stages and is due to make its recommendations to ministers in summer 2009. The terms of reference for the review are to:

> consider how to implement the Government's commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions (LTCs) from prescription charges over the next few years following the exemption for cancer patients, which will be introduced in 2009;
>
> engage with patients and their representatives, clinicians, the public, health care organisations and other interested groups to ensure the widest range of views contribute to the review's findings;
>
> consider how to define the range of long-term conditions affecting patients that should be exempted from prescription charges; and
>
> consider how exemption from charging can be best phased in, with due regard to what is in the best interests of patients, the potential impact on the wider health care system, implications for existing policies on management of long term conditions, implications for public expenditure.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS prescriptions issued in 2007 attracted a charge. [240725]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not know the number of prescriptions that have been issued, only the number of prescription items dispensed.

Prescription information taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, indicate that in 2007 a total of 11.4 per cent. of prescription items (90.8 million) dispensed in England attracted a charge. Of these, 7.1 per cent. of prescription items (56.7 million) were charged at the point of dispensing and 4.3 per cent. of prescription items (34.1 million) were attributable to pre-payment certificates.

Public Consultation: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust in Yorkshire and the Humber spent on consultations in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [240551]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Sex: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women between the ages of 16 and 21 were known to be sexually active in the latest period for which figures are available. [240752]

Dawn Primarolo: Survey data published by the Office for National Statistics "Contraception and Sexual Health 2007-08" Omnibus Survey Report No. 37 found that 80 per cent. of women aged 16-24 reported one or more sexual partners in the last year. The data are not analysed into smaller age bands.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on treatment and prevention of genital warts in the latest period for which figures are available. [240750]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding to support sexual health services is not allocated separately to primary care trusts (PCTs) but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve. Genital warts can be diagnosed and treated in a variety of settings but currently data are only collected from genito-urinary medicine clinics, so it is therefore not possible to accurately forecast how much PCTs spent on the treatment and prevention of genital warts.

Strokes: Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the development of local stroke care networks. [240361]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy mandates the establishment of stroke care networks. All proposed networks originally proposed have now been established and are expected to be fully functional by spring 2009. Details of the networks can be found on the Stroke Improvement programme website.

Vioxx

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 799, on cardiovascular incidents, what steps his Department *(a)* has taken since that Answer and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that the manufacturer of Vioxx fulfils its responsibilities to people in the UK who have been affected; and if he will make a statement. [241266]

Dawn Primarolo: The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Care Services, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) met with representatives of Merck Sharpe and Dohme UK Ltd on 10 July 2008 where he highlighted the concerns raised by hon. Members on behalf of their constituents. A representative from Merck and Co., Inc. was also present at that meeting.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of who fired first in recent skirmishes between forces of Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda across their mutual border. [240656]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The military situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is comparatively calm for the time being. Fighting between the National Congress for People Defense (CNDP) and DRC government forces was last reported on 17 November, when the two sides clashed around the town of Rwindi in North Kivu province. Since then, the rebel leader Laurent Nkunda has fulfilled commitments to withdraw from positions captured in recent fighting. However, skirmishes have taken place between the CNDP and other militia groups more recently.

We continue to follow events in eastern DRC closely, and urge all parties to return to processes to achieve a political solution to the issues underlying the violence.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether there should be direct negotiations between General Nkunda and President Kabila of Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [240657]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) requires a political solution acceptable to all sides. We strongly support the efforts of former President Obasanjo, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General, to achieve such a solution through mediation between key figures in the region. Peace agreements have been reached between leaders in the region. It is important that these are observed.

We would welcome dialogue between the DRC government and Laurent Nkunda. However, talks between them should take place within the framework of the Goma Process, which remains an essential element of a lasting peace in the region.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of participation in recent fighting in Democratic Republic of Congo since the signing of a ceasefire of *(a)* government troops and *(b)* members of the CNDP and other militia. [240658]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* During recent fighting, UN observers reported that shots had been fired across the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. We understand from the UN's mission in DRC that Congolese forces fired several mortars into Rwanda on 29 October; the Rwandan military responded with fire from three T55 tanks. The incident did not escalate any further.

We have urged both the Rwandan and DRC governments to pursue political solutions to the problems in eastern DRC to ensure the full implementation of the Nairobi and Goma agreements. Effective co-operation between the two governments is crucial to ending the conflict. The progress they have made towards resolving the issues posed by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) militia's continued presence in eastern DRC and towards improving their bilateral relations is welcome.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on alleged abuses by the government of Democratic Republic of Congo of the human rights of members of opposition parties; and if he will make a statement. [241343]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Human Rights Watch published a report on 25 November 2008 called "'We Will Crush You', The Restriction of Political Space in the Democratic Republic of Congo'. It accuses Kabila's government of using "brutal and repressive tactics to stifle opponents" since the first round of presidential elections in July-August 2006.

We remain concerned about allegations of human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo and we continue to raise these issues with the authorities. We are working with European partners to monitor the treatment of leading detainees and the conduct of proceedings against them, share information on cases and make representations where appropriate.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1787W, on rendition: Diego Garcia, whether his Department has carried out a records search for the purposes of determining whether UK territory or airspace had actually been used for the purposes of rendition. [241659]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) on 12 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1652W.

Since 2005, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has conducted a number of thorough reviews of our files on rendition. Prior to 2008, given that we had firm assurances from the US that they had not and would not use our territory or airspace for rendition without our permission, these reviews focussed on the question of whether requests for rendition had been made. But, given the thoroughness of these reviews, had they revealed any instances where rendition had occurred, we would have informed Parliament.

However, following the new information received from the US this year that, contrary to previous assurances, there had been two instances of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002, we conducted a further review of records to compile a list of flights where we had been alerted to concerns regarding rendition and ascertain whether we had any evidence that UK territory may have been used for renditions. This included looking back at the process and findings of the previous reviews. No such information was discovered.

Thailand: Protests

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department took to assist UK citizens caught up in the blockade of Bangkok's two main airports. [240417]

Bill Rammell: During the occupation of Bangkok's two main airports by People's Alliance for Democracy protestors, our embassy officials ran a call centre to offer advice to British nationals in Thailand. The call centre also offered to collect details from those worried about getting a flight home and pass those on to airlines as and when emergency flights were being scheduled. Officials were present at Phuket and Chiang Mai airports to provide assistance, and others travelled to U-Tapau military airport once flights began leaving from there. Consular officials helped British nationals obtain urgent medical prescriptions and assisted them in obtaining financial support from family and friends in the UK. Throughout the disruption, embassy officials have been in constant contact with the Thai authorities and have worked closely with the Tourist Authority of Thailand to ensure those British nationals who needed assistance, received it. Officials also toured hotels to communicate with British nationals.

We have been in close contact with all the airlines encouraging them to uphold their responsibility to their ticket holders. I spoke to the United Arab Emirates ambassador on 28 November about problems British nationals in Bangkok were experiencing with Emirates; our ambassador in Abu Dhabi also made additional contact with the head of Emirates in Dubai. The Secretary of State for Transport spoke to the British Airways chief executive on 3 December. As a result of our interventions some carriers did lay on additional flights from alternative airports in Thailand, and others arranged for their passengers tickets to be valid on other airlines with better capacity.

With the reopening of Suvarnabhumi International Airport a British embassy helpdesk has been established, and officials have been liaising closely with airlines in order to give British nationals the best chance of getting a seat home as soon as possible.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the annual turnover of the Downing Street gift shop is. [241756]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minster gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W.

Central Office of Information: Advertising

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1138-44W, on Central Office of Information advertising, what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose was of each advertising campaign carried out by the Central Office of Information in each of the last three years. [240655]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated December 2008:

Re: Advertising Costs

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) name, (b) cost and (c) purpose was of each advertising campaign carried out by COI in each of the last three years [240655].

The information that you have requested has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose is of each television programme his Department has provided funding for in each of the last five years. [241767]

Mr. Byrne: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 400W.

The Cabinet Office has not paid for any television programmes. However, the Office of the Third Sector is providing a grant of £2.4 million to the Media Trust between 2008-11. This funding is to support the Community Channel, a digital television channel which promotes volunteering and the work of charities. This funding also supports the Community Newswire, which enables charities to promote their work to journalists. The Media Trust is an independent charity overseen by a board of trustees which sets the channels' programming priorities. Details of the Community Channel's programmes are available on their website at:

www.communitychannel.org

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on external consultants in each year since 1997. [240527]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W, on security breaches (data loss), what the evidential basis is for the statement by the Parliamentary Secretary relating to the amount of progress in making data safe in government; and if he will make a statement. [241974]

Mr. Watson: Data protection is a top priority for Government Departments and there are a number of key areas in which we have made improvements:

Vital openness and transparency achieved through the publishing of data breaches in annual resource accounts—there is currently no equivalent requirement to report in the private sector

Enhanced departmental roles increasing accountability with senior information risk owners at board level owning risk and reporting to accounting officers on data security measures

Huge training efforts—90,000 staff trained at HMRC alone, NHS training package available to 1 million plus staff, new civil service wide e-learning package delivering data security training on an unprecedented scale

Increased technical precautions to minimise the likelihood of data losses—encryption programmes in all Government Departments with over 30,000 laptops encrypted in MOD alone.

Updated and improved guidance being issued on all aspects of departmental security including physical, personnel and information security.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240972]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office published its Single Equality Scheme in February 2008, which included a report on progress in meeting its disability equality duties. Copies are available in the in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/corp/assets/publications/corporate/equality/equality_scheme.doc

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1131W, and to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on special advisers, whether the aggregate cost of special advisers in the statement includes the cost of *(a)* National Insurance contributions for employers, *(b)* employee pension contributions and (c) expenses. [241770]

Kevin Brennan: National insurance employer contributions incurred on behalf of special advisers and expenses are not included in the pay bill costs provided by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Employee pension contributions form part of salary and are included in the costs provided by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W, on departmental travel, whether the Cabinet Office Mid-Year Report will be published before the end of 2008. [241675]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office's mid-year report, the autumn performance report 2008 (cm 7517), was laid before Parliament on 8 December 2008.

The autumn performance report 2008 is also available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/psa/autumn_delivery.aspx

Foreign Investment in UK

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of foreign capital into the UK has been in each month since January 2004. [241564]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking for the (a) inflow and (b) outflow of foreign capital into the UK in each month since January 2004.(241564)

The Office for National Statistics does not collect data for total inflows and total outflows of foreign capital into the UK. Data is compiled for net inflows only, that is total inflows of foreign capital less total outflows of foreign capital. This data is not available on a monthly basis but. is compiled on a quarterly basis. Therefore data for net inflows of foreign capital into the UK are attached for every quarter since the first quarter of 2004.

This data is published in the quarterly Balance of Payments First Release.

Financial Account—Investment in the UK by non-residents: Net inflows (not seasonally adjusted)

£ million

	Direct investment in the UK				*Portfolio investment in the UK*				
	Equity capital *HJYR*	*Reinvested earnings* *CYFV*	*Other capital transactions* *HMAD*	*Total direct investment in the UK* *HJYU*	*Equity securities* *XBLW*	*Debt securities* *XBLX*	*Total portfolio investment the UK* *HHZF*	*Other investment the UK* *XBMN*	*Total investment in the UK by non-residents* *HBNS*
2004	23,716	8,558	-1,066	31,208	-6,938	95,487	88,549	425,577	545,334
2005	82,949	10,501	4,395	97,845	9,482	123,236	132,718	487,400	717,963
2006	55,393	22,195	7,301	84,889	-10,122	164,078	153,956	382,315	621,160
2007	87,809	24,288	-13,947	98,150	17,327	192,464	209,791	732,367	1,040,308
2004									
Q1	1,382	2,759	1,131	5,272	-132	53,300	53,168	219,446	277,886
Q2	7,127	1,776	-2,865	6,038	-2,877	16,102	13,225	65,824	85,087
Q3	3,676	3,319	365	7,360	-1,382	17,047	15,665	84,968	107,993
Q4	11,531	704	303	12,538	-2,547	9,038	6,491	55,339	74,368
2005									
Q1	8,445	2,632	4,765	15,842	11,379	47,322	58,701	199,555	274,098
Q2	2,786	3,141	8,598	14,525	3,608	25,308	28,916	131,625	175,066
Q3	64,961	3,497	2,252	70,710	-14,199	19,047	4,848	93,865	169,423
Q4	6,757	1,231	-11,220	-3,232	8,694	31,559	40,253	62,355	99,376
2006									
Q1	25,916	4,857	3,480	34,253	-10,555	38,602	28,047	290,389	352,689
Q2	13,870	6,829	2,426	23,125	-7,215	29,914	22,699	-39,954	5,870
Q3	12,481	8,098	-749	19,830	12,161	49,318	61,479	55,629	136,938
Q4	3,126	2,411	2,144	7,681	-4,513	46,244	41,731	76,251	125,663
2007									
Q1	12,843	7,437	-6,624	13,656	-294	34,936	34,642	410,748	459,046
Q2	25,264	5,761	-7,104	23,921	3,653	88,388	92,041	89,289	205,251
Q3	16,198	5,636	-8,439	13,395	-8,279	44,149	35,870	117,156	166,421
Q4	33,504	5,454	8,220	47,178	22,247	24,991	47,238	115,174	209,590
2008									
Q1	23,784	5,730	-5,415	24,099	6,772	45,770	52,542	218,731	295,372
Q2	11,405	5,606	-2,766	14,245	14,557	83,270	97,827	-433,671	-321,599

Government Departments: Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Cabinet Secretary has for cross-departmental capability reviews. [241589]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Secretary intends to complete the programme of re-reviewing all major Government Departments two years on from their original Capability Review.

Utilities

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average quarterly household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels was in each region in England in each year since 1997. [240880]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Joe Grice, dated 8 December 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what the average quarterly household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels was in each region in England in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (240880)

The tables below provide estimates of average expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels for each region in England. Figures have been provided both in current prices, and adjusted for general inflation (shown here in 2007 prices). The figures are based on those published each year in Family Spending, the annual report on the Expenditure and Food Survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=361

Regional estimates published in Family Spending are based on regional sub-samples of the Expenditure and Food Survey. Due to the smaller size of these sub-samples, regional estimates are generally based on data collected over three years. However in some years, changes to the survey meant that this was not possible, and regional estimates were produced using data collected over one or two years.

Average household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels in 2007 prices: by region, England

£ per quarter, 2007 prices[4]

	1997-98[1]	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*[2]	*2000-01*[2]	*2001-02*[1]	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*[2]	*2004-05*[2]	*2005-06*[2]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[3]
North East	215.20	204.00	193.50	177.30	184.60	177.60	168.20	164.30	164.70	195.70	194.30
North West	221.60	208.90	200.00	187.10	176.80	175.40	171.50	170.20	175.70	212.30	208.40
Yorkshire and the Humber	207.40	203.40	189.70	180.90	167.30	166.00	163.90	168.40	175.60	211.20	210.40
East Midlands	208.30	202.40	191.80	182.40	178.90	181.40	174.40	171.20	170.80	202.20	198.40
West Midlands	220.90	211.40	199.70	187.60	180.30	172.00	169.00	167.00	176.50	215.70	216.80
East of England	206.20	197.70	182.90	171.70	182.10	176.40	173.50	172.00	179.50	221.00	218.60
London	191.10	191.30	176.30	171.60	161.60	159.00	159.60	160.30	167.50	196.00	197.90
South East	204.50	196.70	181.70	177.40	187.70	176.80	175.10	169.90	175.50	216.40	213.90
South West	208.40	196.70	180.10	176.70	179.60	182.50	176.60	173.50	176.40	209.50	214.70
England	208.60	200.70	187.50	179.00	177.30	173.50	170.20	168.50	174.10	209.90	209.10

[1] Figures based on data from one year only.

[2] Figures based on an average from three years of data up to and including the reference year.

[3] Figures based on an average from two years of data up to and including the reference year.

[4] Figures have been adjusted to 2007 prices using the RPI all items index.

Average household expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels in current prices: by region, England

£ per quarter

	1997-98[1]	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*[2]	*2000-01*[2]	*2001-02*[1]	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*[2]	*2004-05*[2]	*2005-06*[2]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[3]
North East	165.50	161.80	155.80	147.00	155.40	152.50	148.50	149.70	154.00	187.70	194.30
North West	170.40	165.70	161.00	155.10	148.90	150.60	151.40	155.10	164.30	203.60	208.40
Yorkshire and the Humber	159.50	161.30	152.70	150.00	140.90	142.60	144.80	153.40	164.10	202.60	210.40
East Midlands	160.20	160.50	154.40	151.20	150.60	155.80	154.00	156.00	159.70	193.90	198.40
West Midlands	169.90	167.60	160.70	155.50	151.80	147.70	149.20	152.10	165.00	206.90	216.80
East of England	158.50	156.80	147.30	142.40	153.30	151.50	153.20	156.70	167.80	212.00	218.60
London	147.00	151.70	141.90	142.30	136.10	136.60	140.90	146.10	156.60	187.90	197.90
South East	157.20	156.00	146.30	147.10	158.00	151.90	154.60	154.80	164.10	207.50	213.90
South West	160.20	155.90	145.00	146.50	151.20	156.80	155.90	158.00	165.00	200.90	214.70
England	160.40	159.20	150.90	148.40	149.30	149.00	150.30	153.50	162.70	201.30	209.10

[1] Figures based on data from one year only.

[2] Figures based on an average from three years of data up to and including the reference year.

[3] Figures based on an average from two years of data up to and including the reference year.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of academy schools on educational attainment in areas of relative *(a)* wealth and *(b)* deprivation. [242004]

Jim Knight: Most academy pupils—almost 70 per cent. (based on the income deprivation affecting children index)—come from deprived areas, but we have made no separate assessment of their performance compared to pupils from other areas. Overall, however, the evidence shows that academies are improving educational attainment compared with their predecessor schools and at a much faster rate than the national average. The fifth annual independent evaluation of academies by PricewaterhouseCoopers concludes that

> "Academies are meeting the needs of a wide range of pupils".

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are scheduled to be included in waves 7 to 15 of the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [242143]

Jim Knight: We have not yet identified which local authorities and projects will be in waves 7 to 15 of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The deadline for authorities to submit revised expressions of interest was the end of November 2008.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1001-2W, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost of each project was at its outset. [242317]

Jim Knight: As stated in my previous answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1001-02W, the Department does not currently hold a comprehensive list of IT expenditure at every level of detail sponsored by the Department or its delivery partners. To research this information further could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on bonuses by each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in the last year for which data are available. [240618]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1841W.

Departmental Pensions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the net present value is of current *(a)* departmental employees and *(b)* teachers' pensions. [240634]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is a multi-employer occupational pension scheme for civil servants employed by Government Departments, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families, as well as some other public bodies. The liabilities for the PCSPS are contained in the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts, which are laid before Parliament each year. Figures for the liabilities relating to individual employers are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The value of the teachers' pension scheme is available in the latest published Resource Accounts (2006-07).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [240787]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Expenditure on entertainment by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2007-08 has been provided previously, please refer to the answer given on 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1583W.

Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates. It is therefore not possible to establish a definitive figure for all advertising and promotion, except at disproportionate cost.

Advertising is part of a full integrated promotional campaign. We are able to separate the Department's spend on campaign advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information, in 2007/08 expenditure by the Department on such advertising was £4,588,000.

Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media. The Department's expenditure on public relations in 2007-08 was £2,333,000.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils studying for *(a)* further mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry and *(d)* mathematics A-level have been in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction; and what the equivalent number was in the year before its introduction. [240606]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the operation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme. The LSC does not collect information about the A-level subjects studied by EMA recipients.

EMA was rolled out nationally in England from September 2004. The A-level entry time series from the 2002/03 academic year onwards can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* pupils entitled to free school meals, *(b)* pupils not entitled to free school meals and *(c)* all pupils gained (i) no GCSEs and (ii) fewer than five A* to G grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 1999. [241853]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following tables, for years going back to 2003. Data prior to 2002 are not available, due to information on free school meal eligibility not being collected. The 2008 data are expected to be published in December.

Pupils achieving fewer than five or more A-G including English and maths*

	Number			*Percentage*		
	FSM	*Non-FSM*	*All pupils*	*FSM*	*Non-FSM*	*All pupils*
2007	18,019	45,174	63,193	23.5	8.5	10.5
2006	19,683	47,445	89,727	25.2	9.2	15.1
2005	21,085	47,447	68,532	26.4	9.5	11.8
2004	22,760	51,223	76,722	27.8	10.1	13.0
2003	23,114	50,798	76,620	28.5	10.3	13.3

Pupils achieving no GCSEs

	Number			*Percentage*		
	FSM	*Non-FSM*	*All pupils*	*FSM*	*Non-FSM*	*All pupils*
2007	4,047	9,651	13,698	5.3	1.8	2.3
2006	4,867	11,072	17,132	6.2	2.1	2.9
2005	6,032	12,293	18,325	7.6	2.4	3.2
2004	7,213	15,680	23,939	8.8	3.1	4.1
2003	9,667	19,713	30,213	11.9	4.0	5.2

Please note that the data for 2005-07 are based on pupils at the end of KS4 and years 2003 and 2004 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.

Figures relate to pupils in maintained schools only.

Data for 2002 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

History: Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1502-3W, on schools: assessments, which mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for A-level history. [241518]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information required is given as follows.

Only schools that were published in the 2007 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables have been given.

Maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A level history in 2006/07

	School	*Number of 16 to 18-year-olds*[1]
2024104	Haverstock School	255
2024652	Maria Fidelis Roman Catholic Convent School FCJ	141
2044686	The Skinners' Company's School for Girls	152
2084509	Charles Edward Brooke School	88
2035403	Archbishop Tenison's School	36
2106906	The Academy at Peckham	133
2114242	Mulberry School for Girls	356
2124329	Battersea Technology College	62
3036905	The Business Academy Bexley	90
3044006	Wembley High Technology College	180
3045408	John Kelly Boys' Technology College	134
3046905	Capital City Academy	140
3076905	West London Academy	112
3084041	Salisbury School	124
3084043	Highlands School	192
3094034	Woodside High School, a Business and Enterprise Specialist School	68
3094037	Park View Academy	64
3096905	Greig City Academy	114
3124654	Guru Nanak Sikh Voluntary Aided Secondary School	72
3134021	Hounslow Manor School	100
3145403	Coombe Boys' School	93
3206905	Walthamstow Academy	2
3304084	Washwood Heath Technology College	113
3304207	Handsworth Wood Girls' Visual and Performing Arts Specialist College and Sixth Form Centre	51
3304227	Broadway School	143
3304245	Moseley School A Language College	141
3305412	George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	185
3314030	Lyng Hall School	65
3335400	Manor Foundation Business and Sports College	74
3354017	Alumwell Business and Enterprise College	164
3354100	Darlaston Community Science College	114
3364115	Deansfield High School	96
3364131	Parkfield High School	108
3364139	Moreton Community School	110
3404609	All Saints Catholic High School	152
3414419	Shorefields School	53
3414420	Fazakerley High School	71
3414423	Croxteth Community Comprehensive School	91
3414425	Broadgreen High School a Technology College	164
3414788	St. Benedict's College	114
3414796	Archbishop Beck Catholic Sports College	168
3416906	North Liverpool Academy	156
3524257	Whalley Range 11-18 High School and Business and Enterprise College	297
3714607	Rossington All Saints Church of England (VA) School—A Sports College	145
3804034	Rhodesway School	206
3804066	Greenhead High School	182
3804100	Carlton Bolling College	312
3804613	Feversham College	96
3804616	Immanuel College	122
3814036	The Ridings School	27
3824048	Batley Girls' High School	182
3834031	City of Leeds School	52
3834044	Primrose High School	99
3834045	John Smeaton Community High School	84
3834054	Intake High School Arts College	99
3834058	West Leeds High School	90
3834059	Parklands Girls' High School	73
3834851	South Leeds High School	93
3904605	Cardinal Hume Catholic School	91
3914500	All Saints College	49
8004108	Culverhay School	62
8014032	Brislington Enterprise College	304
8016905	The City Academy Bristol	12
8114063	Howden School and Technology College	93
8124086	The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	55
8154203	Ripon College	76
8254001	Highcrest Community School	124
8254036	Princes Risborough	73
8254072	Cressex Community School	43
8254074	Burnham Upper School	134
8254094	The Wye Valley School	156
8254095	Amersham School	95
8264085	Sir Frank Markham Community School	121
8315403	Merrill College	62
8364111	Rossmore Community College	32
8364112	Ashdown Technology College	135
8374189	Oakmead College of Technology	53
8564005	New College Leicester	37
8604066	Norton Canes High School	73
8604084	Maryhill High School	39
8674030	The Brakenhale School	72
8714082	Baylis Court School	67
8715409	The Westgate School	72
8724041	Ryeish Green School	90
8754161	Ellesmere Port Specialist School of Performing Arts	81
8814735	St. Peters College	81
8825414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	88
8864026	Dartford Technology College	63
8864031	Swanley Technology College	85
8864059	Swadelands School	64
8864065	Holmesdale Technology College	133
8864114	Archers Court Maths and Computing College	76
8864204	Wilmington Enterprise College	52
8864207	Castle Community College	91
8864219	Hextable School	111
8864242	The Abbey School	93
8865409	Wrotham School	89
8865410	Aylesford School—Sports College	109
8865455	The Hayesbrook School	79
8865456	Northfleet Technology College	

Maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A level history in 2006/07

	School	*Number of 16 to 18-year-olds*[1]
8865406	Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	159
8884408	Fleetwood Sports College	2
8914008	Kirkby College	52
8925402	Greenwood Dale School	171
8926905	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	226
9094301	Morton School	33
9094630	Newman Catholic School	77
9095408	North Cumbria Technology College	31
9164039	Vale of Berkeley College	7
9164080	Brockworth Enterprise School	87
9194117	The Sele School	61
9194154	Onslow St. Audrey's School	54
9195427	Hockerill Anglo-European College	162
9254036	The City of Lincoln Community College	112
9254609	St. Clements College	103
9255414	Joseph Ruston Technology College	11
9255423	The Giles School	136
9264008	Charles Burrell High School	77
9264067	Heartsease High School	43
9264066	Earlham High School	86
9265403	Costessey High School	130
9284103	Unity College	78
9314074	Peers School	47
9314145	St. Gregory the Great VA Catholic Secondary School	131
9365405	Epsom and Ewell High School	123

[1] Age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many national curriculum test papers from 2008 schools have asked to be re-marked; [240603]

(2) when he expects all national curriculum test papers from 2008 to have been re-marked and returned to schools. [240625]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) has in place arrangements for marking to be reviewed where a school believes that it is inaccurate to the extent that a pupil has received an incorrect national curriculum level. The NAA is currently managing the final phase of the reviews process and expects that all results will be issued to schools in the coming weeks. The great majority of schools have already received results for their review applications. Once the final phase of review marking is complete, NAA will be able to provide data on the volume of reviews for the 2008 national curriculum test cycle.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual cost of pre-tests for *(a)* key stage 1, *(b)* key stage 2 and *(c)* key stage 3; and if he will make a statement. [241886]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for administering national curriculum tests. NAA advise that the annual costs of pre-tests are as follows:

KS1: The last pre-test was conducted in 2005 and NAA does not have separate costs for this.

KS2: An estimate of pre-testing costs for 2008 per subject are as follows:

Pre-test 1 (recruitment, administration and courier costs): £41,000

Pre-test 2 (recruitment, administration and courier costs): £40,000

KS3: An estimate of pre-testing costs for 2008 per subject are as follows:

Pre-test 1 (recruitment, administration and courier costs): £107,000

Pre-test 2 (recruitment, administration and courier costs): £125,000

Pre-school Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many infants were in classes of over 30 pupils in each year since 1997. [241882]

Jim Knight: The number of infants in classes of over 30 pupils in each year since 1997 can be found in the Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England Statistical First Releases between 2000 and 2008 and the Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England Statistical First Release between 1997 and 1999. These can be viewed online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000147/sfr15-2000.pdf

(Table 9 for figures between 1997 to 1999).

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000457/08-2004v2.pdf

(Table 9 for figures between 2000 and 2003).

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/SFR_09_2008_National_Tables.xls

(Table 11 for figures between 2004 and 2008).

Private Education: Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent schools are offering diplomas, broken down by diploma type. [240631]

Jim Knight: There are currently no independent schools offering diplomas in 2008/09. However, Wellington college has confirmed its intention to offer the diploma in engineering as early as September 2009.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Fresh Start schools have opened in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [241621]

Jim Knight: The number of Fresh Start schools which opened each year is as follows:

	Number of Fresh Start schools
2001	4
2002	3
2003	5
2004	6
2005	4
2006	3
2007	7
2008	1

The majority of Fresh Start schools have made real progress towards raising standards of attainment. At secondary level we expect other programmes, including National Challenge, to be the main focus for secondary school transformation in future.

Schools: Disabled

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England and Wales have produced a disability equality scheme since the entry into force of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [242001]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1159W.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recurrent additional capital funding specialist schools receive to support their specialism; and if he will make a statement. [241622]

Jim Knight: Specialist schools receive a one-off capital grant of £100,000 on their initial designation, which is conditional on them raising £50,000 in sponsorship. The capital grant must be used, together with the sponsorship raised, to enhance the school's facilities for teaching the specialist subject(s). Specialist schools may also apply for a one-off capital grant of £25,000 when they redesignate, if they can match this with £25,000 in sponsorship, to enable them to renew their specialist facilities and improve and sustain relationships with business and employer partners.

Specialised Diplomas: Costs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost is of providing *(a)* diplomas and *(b)* academic diplomas in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011-12. [240600]

Jim Knight: Five diploma lines in engineering, construction and the built environment, information technology, creative and media and society, health and development have started being taught from September 2008; five lines (business, administration and finance, environmental and land-based studies, hair and beauty studies, hospitality, and manufacturing and product design) will start being taught from September 2009; four lines (public services, sport and active leisure, retail business, and travel and tourism) will start being taught from September 2010; and three lines (humanities, science and languages) will start being taught from September 2011.

The estimated funding levels for diplomas from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

	£ million
2008-09	117.6
2009-10	113.1
2010-11	78.1

The diploma spending plans for 2011-12 will be considered as part of the next Spending Review and funding levels will be determined at that stage.

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional funding allocations will be made for the delivery of the new diplomas in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [241628]

Jim Knight: The estimated funding levels for diplomas from 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2008-09	117.6
2009-10	113.1
2010-11	78.1

These costs include teacher training, additional funding to local areas and per student, and preparation and delivery costs such as transport.

The diploma spending plans for 2011-12 will be considered as part of the next spending review and funding levels will be determined at that stage.

Specialist Schools: Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: languages, which specialist schools have chosen languages as one of their specialisms. [240583]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in both the Libraries.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers under the age of 60 are *(a)* not currently teaching and *(b)* not currently teaching in maintained schools. [240599]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following statistical publication: School Workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/Addition_1_DOU.xls

(Table 11 and 12 give figures for March 2006).

Figures for 2007 will be published on 11 December 2008 and may be viewed online after 9.30 am that day:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml.

Teachers: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much was spent on wages for *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff as a proportion of GDP in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008; [240563]

(2) how much was spent on wages for *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) Vale of York constituency in (A) 1997 and (B) 2008. [240564]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained within the following tables:

Staffing expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England as a percentage of GDP for 1996-97 and 2007-08

	Staffing (pay) expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England			
	1996-97		*2007-08 (estimated)*	
	£	*As a percentage of GDP*	*£*	*As a percentage of GDP*
Teaching staff	9,725,742,000	1.23	18,429,079,000	1.30
Education support staff	1,213,867,000	0.15	4,246,602,000	0.30
Other school staff	1,754,316,000	0.22	3,022,919,000	0.21

Staffing expenditure by local authority maintained schools in Yorkshire and Humberside for 1996-97 and 2007-08

	1996-97			*2007-08*		
	Teaching staff	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*	*Teaching staff*	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,094,692,000	136,602,000	177,427,000	1,840,920,000	493,859,000	286,883,000
Barnsley	44,590,000	5,196,000	6,819,000	75,231,000	18,618,000	11,840,000
Bradford	115,239,000	33,666,000	11,536,000	207,242,000	58,551,000	32,955,000
Calderdale	39,630,000	4,780,000	6,474,000	83,093,000	18,286,000	14,111,000
City of Kingston upon Hull	56,226,000	6,773,000	11,928,000	85,705,000	28,501,000	15,961,000
Doncaster	69,012,000	12,415,000	8,241,000	111,336,000	24,867,000	17,928,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	65,170,000	7,764,000	9,834,000	111,236,000	23,102,000	20,545,000
Kirklees	86,091,000	13,195,000	8,995,000	151,660,000	38,052,000	20,445,000
Leeds	158,403,000	6,625,000	39,803,000	247,972,000	64,563,000	40,054,000
North East Lincolnshire	36,299,000	4,679,000	6,311,000	52,863,000	14,925,000	11,230,000
North Lincolnshire	35,543,000	3,595,000	7,504,000	55,700,000	14,056,000	8,495,000
North Yorkshire	124,700,000	9,917,000	13,607,000	216,073,000	40,361,000	20,108,000
Rotherham	64,616,000	6,379,000	8,312,000	108,298,000	28,890,000	14,114,000
Sheffield	99,886,000	14,828,000	16,910,000	165,695,000	42,402,000	28,910,000
Wakefield	70,542,000	3805,000	16,133,000	113,163,000	27,019,000	15,824,000
York	33,737,000	3,605,000	4,850,000	55,776,000	11,666,000	6,362,000

Notes:

1. Teaching Staff includes teaching staff, supply teaching staff and agency supply teachers.
2. Other School Staff includes premises staff, admin staff, catering staff and other staff.
3. GDP cash data sourced from ONS data for money GDP.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
5. The 1996-97 data taken from the R01 which was collected from CLG (formerly ODPM). The 2007-08 data taken from Section 52 Outturn statements.
6. Cumbria LA has yet to make a 2007-08 Section 52 Outturn Submission and consequently the England total for 2007-08 is estimated.
7. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 4 December 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that investments abroad through *(a)* CDC Group and *(b)* other bodies do not engage with offshore tax regimes that are designated as harmful by the EU Code of Conduct. [240328]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has set an Investment Policy for CDC—recently renewed in November 2008—which dictates where and in what the company may invest. In accordance with advice from Her Majesty's Treasury, the policy requires that, when CDC invests in intermediary companies for fiscal, regulatory or other reasons, it should seek to avoid those jurisdictions listed as unco-operative tax havens by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development or tax regimes listed as harmful under the European Union Code of Conduct for Business Taxation.

DFID does not make investments abroad through any other bodies.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240467]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Hospitality expenditure is processed through the Department for International Development's (DFID) financial systems, recording budget authoriser, date, accounting period, department and identifying costs against the chart of accounts.

Beverage costs (including alcohol) are not accounted for as separate items.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242603]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State last used a train in the course of his official duties on 28 November 2008.

Departmental Research

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's estimated change in expenditure on departmental research will be over the next *(a)* year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* five years; and what areas of research will be targeted. [241529]

Mr. Michael Foster: The forecasted expenditure on centrally managed research is £134 million this financial year (2008-09) rising to £181 million next year (2009-10) and £220 million in 2010-11 through to 2013-14.

The areas of focus for the Department for International Development's (DFID) research is set out in the DFID Research Strategy 2008-13 published in April this year. The six theme areas are health, sustainable agriculture, growth, climate change, governance in challenging environments and future challenges and opportunities.

A link to the DFID Research Strategy is as follows:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Research-Strategy-08.pdf

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that relevant research informs its policy making. [241530]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with research programmes and draws on appropriate evidence and knowledge as it becomes available. DFID has recently re-organised the management of research so that research teams work directly with policy teams. There will also be a much enlarged policy and research communication team, which will include a new team on research uptake. The mandate of this team is to ensure that processes are in place that enhance access to and use of research. This includes:

(i) Knowledge Brokers whose mandate is to sign-post policy advisers with relevant research information;

(ii) A new synthesis function, to systematically review relevant research in a defined policy area;

(iii) Management of a range of research communication programmes that make research more accessible (for example, through policy briefs, short research summaries, better reporting of research findings in the media); and

(iv) Introduction of Senior Research Fellows who will provide scientific leadership and enhance the relevance of research in policy and practice.

Further information on DFID research is available through the central portal at:

http://www.research4development.info/

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter to him of 3 November from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S Choudhry. [241699]

Mr. Michael Foster: A reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton has been issued.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his departmental budget *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* unilateral aid will contribute over the next (i) year, (ii) two years and (iii) five years. [241905]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Full details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) planned programme allocation for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 are set out in table 4 of annex 2 of the 2008 DFID annual report, "Development: Making it Happen". Summary totals are reproduced in the following table.

		2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Country/regional programme	Allocation (£ million)	2,304	2,587	2,887
	As percentage of total programme	43	41	39
International Divisions' programme	Allocation (£ million)	2,614	3,120	3,595
	As percentage of total programme	48	49	49
Policy and Research Division programme	Allocation (£ million)	489	641	837
	As percentage of total programme	9	10	11

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/annual-report-08.asp

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes he plans to make to his Department's development assistance to Zimbabwe in response to the cholera outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [242793]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We are responding to the cholera outbreak and wider crisis in the health service in Zimbabwe with a £10 million package of assistance. This is part of an overall aid programme this financial year worth £47 million, of which £9 million has been given for food aid. Since the beginning of the financial year, our total programme in Zimbabwe has been increased by nearly 20 per cent., from a baseline budget of £40 million, making it the largest ever British aid programme to Zimbabwe.

In addition to our emergency response, we continue to give life saving support to people affected by HIV and AIDS, and are helping thousands of small farmers to increase their food production through the supply of seeds and fertilizer and the introduction of improved farming methods. None of our aid goes through government, but is all channelled through the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organisation (NGOs).

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the Government is making in terms of *(a)* resources and *(b)* personnel to the World Health Organisation's efforts to respond to the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [240848]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing a £10 million package of support to respond to the cholera outbreak and the collapse of health services in Zimbabwe. The cholera has killed hundreds of people and hospitalised several thousands more.

As part of this package we are strengthening the capacity of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to strengthen its capacity to co-ordinate the cholera response, and ensure timely surveillance and effective health information systems to track and respond to new cholera cases.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the £3 million in aid for Zimbabwe he announced on 26 November is to be spent; and if he will make a statement. [241260]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The collapse of the water and sanitation system in Zimbabwe has resulted in the worst cholera epidemic in the country's history and has already led to thousands of cases and several hundred deaths. Fatality rates are high because of the collapse of the health system.

The additional £3 million funding will be disbursed through the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Department for International Development's funding will help provide life-saving health services and safe drinking water in the areas worst hit, better co-ordination, surveillance, and hygiene education. These additional funds will also help prevent and respond to other epidemics should they occur in the coming months.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's aid to Zimbabwe in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 was used, or is intended to be used, for water and sanitation projects. [241262]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided both emergency and longer-term support for water, sanitation and hygiene in Zimbabwe over the past three years. This has been mainly through direct contributions to UNICEF for emergency disease preparedness programmes (including cholera) and also through the DFID Protracted Relief Programme (PRP) which seeks to provide longer-term sustainable solutions to supplying potable water. In 2007-08 a total of £700,000 was channelled through NGO partners under the PRP and a contribution of £1 million was made through UNICEF for disease preparedness. This year (2008-09) £1.9 million was channelled through NGOs for a strengthened response to access to clean water and participatory health and hygiene education.

TREASURY

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241188]

Angela Eagle: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the programme can be found at

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

The Treasury is working with other Departments to enhance the Government's capacity to adapt by, for example, reviewing its appraisal guidance (the Green Book) to ensure that policy and investment decisions incorporate adaptation.

Debt

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the collectable balance of outstanding debt was on *(a)* 30 April 2007 and *(b)* 31 October 2008. [241095]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs calculates its debt balance as at 31 March each year and includes the relevant figures in the Trust Statement which form part of it's published accounts.

The accounts for 2007-08 (HC 674) which include the debt balances as at 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008 were published on 14 July 2008. Copies of the accounts are available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.govuk/about/reports.htm

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in workforce levels on collection of outstanding debts in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [241096]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs has no evidence of a direct correlation between recent changes in its debt management work force levels and the collection of outstanding debt.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 336-37W, on IP addresses, which Departments use the Government Secure Intranet; and for what purposes. [241554]

Angela Eagle: The GSi forms part of Critical National Infrastructure, and as such, detailed customer information is not made publicly available.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240462]

Angela Eagle: The Department maintains a record of total spending on official hospitality in its general ledger. For the recording of alcohol spending I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on

20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1855W. All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Economic and Monetary Union

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the recent assessment of the UK's performance against the five economic tests for joining the euro. [240963]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that,

> "the Government do not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget."

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what changes have been made to alcohol duties in each year since 1997; [241066]

(2) what the level per hectolitre of each type of alcohol duty was in each year since 1997. [241067]

Angela Eagle: All changes to excise duty rates are published at the Budget and where relevant in the pre-Budget report. Historical data on alcohol duty can be found on the UK Trade Information website:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins.

Government Departments: Property

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Government-owned assets have been sold in each year since 1997; and how much each asset was sold for. [241155]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury does not record which Government-owned assets have been sold in each year. The estimate of annual asset disposal proceeds is made at an aggregate Government level. Details of proceeds raised from the disposal of fixed assets are published in the PBR (Ch. B), Budget (Ch. C) and in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Ch. 5).

Government Securities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W, on Government securities, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Government's revised future issuance plans. [242319]

Ian Pearson: The Government's revised issuance plans for 2008-09 can be found in Table B20 of the pre-Budget report 2008. The Government will publish their issuance plans for 2009-10 at Budget 2009.

National Income

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes he forecasts in levels of gross domestic product in the South West Region for each of the next three years; and if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect of such levels on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [241378]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not produce regional GDP data series and do not forecast regional growth rates in the United Kingdom. The ONS produce regional GVA. In terms of GVA at current basic prices, the latest data show that between 2005-06, the south-west grew at 5.4 per cent. compared to the United Kingdom's average growth rate of 5.1 per cent. Data on regional GVA can be accessed publicly via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/gva1207.pdf.

HM Treasury works with Communities and Local Government, where appropriate, to inform regional spatial strategies for every region.

National Insurance

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be earning £10,000 or less per annum and paying *(a)* national insurance contributions and *(b)* income tax in 2009-10. [240508]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* In 2009-10, an estimated 3.7 million people with incomes of £10,000 or less will pay income tax—a reduction of 58 per cent. compared to the estimated 8.8 million people in 1997-98. The estimated number of employees and self-employed with earnings of £10,000 or less who will pay national insurance contributions in 2009-10 is around 3.5 million.

Estimates for earlier years of the number of taxpayers with incomes below £10,000 can be found in Table 2.5 "Income tax liabilities, by income range" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income tax/menu.htm

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue has been generated by national non-domestic rates in each of the last five years *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region. [241468]

Ian Pearson: National outturn figures for total business rates revenues are published in table B13 of each pre-Budget report document, the most recent of which can be found at the address below:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm.

A regional breakdown of business rates collected in England is published in table 2.3e of 'Local Government Financial Statistics (England) No 18', which can be found at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm.

This document also (in table 2.3d) sets out the receipts collected each year connected to assets that cannot be allocated by region (e.g. telecommunications networks and oil pipelines).

Business rates in Scotland and Wales and district rates in Northern Ireland are a devolved matter. Data can be obtained from the relevant devolved administration.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been generated from the abolition of empty property tax relief since April 2008. [241699]

Angela Eagle: Figures for 2008-09 will not be available until after the end of the financial year when local authorities submit their returns to the Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the revenue that will be generated from the abolition of empty property tax relief in this tax year. [241700]

Angela Eagle: The Government published estimates of the revenue generated from the abolition of empty property relief in the 2007 and 2008 Budget reports.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average value of tax on empty property paid by businesses since April 2008. [241701]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available. Business rates are collected by reference to the property not by business.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of empty commercial properties incurring tax demands in each month since April 2007. [241702]

Angela Eagle: This information is not collected by central Government.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations his Department has received on the removal of empty property tax relief for commercial premises; what assessment he has made of the representations; and if he will make a statement. [241547]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of recent changes to empty property tax relief on the involvement of developers in regeneration schemes; what representations he has received from developers on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [241552]

Angela Eagle: The Department of Communities and Local Government published an impact assessment of the empty property rate relief reforms in May 2007 alongside the primary legislation.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/ratingempty

On 26 February this year, my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) laid a further assessment before the House, alongside the regulations.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20080386_en.pdf

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent from the public purse on mitigating the effects of the credit crunch in terms of *(a)* liquidity provision, *(b)* loan guarantees, *(c)* bail-outs, *(d)* bank recapitalisations, *(e)* assistance to industry, *(f)* assistance to the mortgage market, *(g)* provision for housebuilding, *(h)* other public works programmes, *(i)* credit crunch-related tax reductions and *(j)* other credit crunch-related expenditure; and how much he estimates will be spent on each of these categories in each of the next five years. [242048]

Ian Pearson: Box B3 of the 2008 pre-Budget report discusses the impact on the public finances of the financial stability measures taken by the Government. The Office for National Statistics has yet to rule on how some of the transactions associated with these measures should be classified. Table B5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report sets out the fiscal impact of the measures being taken by the Government to support the economy.

Public Sector: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice the Office of Government Commerce has provided on the use of break clauses in Government contracts to allow public sector bodies to leave a contract if there is a change of policy as a consequence of a change in the Government. [241746]

Angela Eagle: OGC recommends, in its contractual guidance available on the OGC website, that Departments include a general break clause in their contracts for goods or services as a precautionary measure. In the event that there was a change of policy, as a consequence of a change of Government, this clause provides them with a facility to terminate a contract early, after giving the contractor a period of notice.

Revenue and Customs: Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W, on departmental personnel, how many staff within *(a)* HM Revenue & Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency are classified as pre-surplus. [241937]

Angela Eagle: Pre-surplus status gives staff priority for vacancies in HMRC and in other Government Departments.

On 5 December the number of staff classified as pre-surplus was as follows:

(a) 2,874 HM Revenue and Customs staff, and

(b) No Valuation Office Agency staff.

Royal Mint

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the alternative funding models being considered for the Royal Mint include the option of privatisation. [240445]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The pre-Budget report (PBR) reference to the asset strand of the Operational Efficiency Programme stated that Gerry Grimstone will be working with Departments, agencies, and the Shareholder Executive to consider the potential for alternative business models, commercialisation, new market opportunities and, where appropriate, alternatives to public ownership for a number of Government assets. With respect to the Royal Mint, the PBR stated that this would entail

> "a study to explore the potential benefits of alternative future models for the Royal Mint".

Scottish Consolidated Fund: Fossil Fuel Levy

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1918W, on the Scottish Consolidated Fund: fossil fuel levy, whether the funds drawn down from the fossil fuel surplus to the UK Consolidated Fund are ring-fenced for the promotion of renewable energy; and how much has been transferred to the Scottish Executive as Barnett consequentials. [241415]

Yvette Cooper: The funds drawn down from the fossil fuel surplus to the UK Consolidated Fund are used to fund public spending. Public spending plans are set out in spending reviews and the Scottish Executive receives Barnett consequentials in the normal way, including in respect of the promotion of renewable energy.

Tax Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the effect on receipts to the Exchequer of increasing the taper rate on tax credits to *(a)* 46 per cent., *(b)* 45 per cent., *(c)* 44 per cent. and *(d)* 43 per cent. in 2009; what his estimate is of the number of people who would no longer be eligible for tax credits in each case; and if he will make a statement. [240308]

Ian Pearson: The estimated saving, in 2009-10, of increasing the first taper rate of tax credits to the rates requested, is provided in the following table. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

First taper rate (percentage)	*Effect on expenditure (£ million)*
46	-1,510
45	-1,320
44	-1,130
43	-930

These changes would not affect the number of claimants eligible for tax credits. However, they would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to publish a response to the consultation on the tax credit system; and if he will make a statement. [241940]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 5.16 of the pre-Budget report November 2008 Cm 7484 which states, following input from stakeholders, the Government's intention to trial making child care payments that more closely reflect child care costs at the time they were incurred.

Tax Credit: Applications

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new claims for tax credits have been made in each of the last 24 months. [241467]

Angela Eagle: For information up to and including September 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 792W. The number of new claims received by household in October and November 2008 was 125,757 and 113,259 respectively.

Tax Credit: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about tax credits have been received by the tax credit office in each of the last 24 months, broken down by mode of communication. [241466]

Ian Pearson: For information up to and including September 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 2367W, and the answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 634W.

Information for October and November 2008 is provided in the following table.

2008	*Number of complainants (approximate)*
October	4,000
November	3,450

Tax Credit: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost of pursuing a court case for tax credit overpayment recovery was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008 to date. [241969]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tax Credit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the scripts used by tax credit helpline staff. [241459]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is the policy of his Department's tax credit helpline to offer a callback to callers upon request. [241460]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1691W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls have been received by the hon. Members' tax credit helpline in each month since it was established.[1] [241465]

Angela Eagle: For the number of calls answered each month by the Tax Credit Office MP Hotline up to and including May 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Paymaster-General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 419W.

The information requested for the period June 2007 to November 2008 is provided in the following table.

	Number of calls to Tax Credit Office MP Hotline
2007	
June	1,291
July	1,071
August	976
September	1,146
October	1,404
November	1,233
December	887
2008	
January	934
February	1,025
March	775
April	947
May	994
June	1,118
July	1,083
August	826
September	912
October	1,009
November	775

VAT: Hotels

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many VAT-registered *(a)* hotels, *(b)* guest houses, *(c)* bed and breakfast establishments and *(d)* licensed premises there were in each of the last five years. [240650]

Angela Eagle: HMRC does not collect information at the requested level of detail.

Numbers of VAT registered enterprises by broad sector (at the three-digit standard industrial classification level) are published on the website of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Voluntary Work

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to monitor and provide estimates of the amount of unpaid work undertaken in the economy; and if he will make a statement. [240448]

Angela Eagle: The independent Office for National Statistics has made occasional estimates of the amount of unpaid work in the economy. There is an ongoing programme of work looking into producing these estimates on a regular basis.

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 7MC.]*

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 December 2008

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Paid Posts

8. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners, what paid posts in the offices of the Church Commissioners are subject to a test of religious belief in respect of *(a)* appointment and *(b)* promotion. [242329]

Sir Stuart Bell: In relation to appointment, the posts of Secretary to the Church Commissioners and Chief Financial Officer both carry requirements that the post-holder be a practising Christian.

Religious belief is not a relevant factor in promotion (except to these two specific roles).

Churches: Closures

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough,, representing the Church Commissioners, what matters the Church Commissioners expect to be raised at the forthcoming summit on church closures; and if he will make a statement. [242471]

Sir Stuart Bell: Church of England staff have been meeting with officials from the Treasury, the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Office of the Third Sector and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Both the Government and the Church of England recognise that enabling churches to become community resources is one of the best ways of safeguarding those buildings while helping meet the needs of their local communities. However, the full potential of churches as community resources and as part of schemes for social regeneration is undeveloped and unrealised.

By way of a statement, the main focus of these meetings has been, first, to examine the barriers currently faced by churches—of all denominations and faiths—who want to open up their buildings for the use of the wider communities; second, to look at how these barriers can be overcome; and, third, to identify national, regional and local sources of public funding programmes. A paper is being drawn up for a further meeting of Ministers and the Bishop of London in the near future.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what conclusions the Government Equalities Office has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240993]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is a new Department which was established on 12 October 2007. We have recently finalised our GEO terms and conditions with trade union representatives and are currently consulting our staff and stakeholders on the content of our Equality Scheme which, among other things, sets out our steps to fulfil our obligations under the disability equality duty. The scheme will be published on the GEO website in due course.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241964]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office relies on IT systems provided by other Government Departments. To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the Government Equalities Office's computers are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on Ministerial hospitality in each financial year since the Office was established. [241247]

Maria Eagle: No such hospitality costs have been incurred. Since its establishment on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has funded nine ministerial receptions. Details of these are shown on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 473W and 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 4W. The cost of the receptions includes room hire and catering charges for refreshments for delegates but in accordance with usual departmental practice these costs are not classified as hospitality, which is taken to be lunch or dinner provided to visitors from outside the Department.

Departmetal ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 804W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* expected cost was at the outset of the project. [242155]

Maria Eagle: The new GEO website is expected to be ready in January 2009. The expected cost at the outset of the project was £37,491, excluding VAT.

Rape Crisis Centres

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress has been made on provision of emergency funding for rape crisis centres. [240281]

Maria Eagle: Nineteen rape crisis centres have been awarded grants from the second and final round of this special fund, to a total of nearly £706,000, ensuring that they have been able to remain open.

The Government continue to step up action to tackle rape and bring offenders to justice. The latest figures show that in 2006 there were nearly 800 convictions for rape, compared to just over 500 in 1997, an increase of over 45 per cent.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children died from each cause of death in each local authority in the last year for which data are available. [240759]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children died from each cause of death in each local authority in the last year for which figures are available. (240759)

The table provides the number of deaths of children aged under 16 years, in total and for the five most common causes of death, for each local authority in England and Wales, for 2005-2007 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library. To allow breakdown by cause of death, figures have been given for the years 2005-2007 aggregated together. Figures of childhood deaths for all specific causes are not available for local authorities, as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in death statistics. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

Death: MRSA

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many death certificates on which *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile were mentioned were issued in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [240568]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates were issued in England and Wales on which (a) MRSA and (b) Clostridium difficile were mentioned in each of the last three years. (24G568)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where (a) MRSA or (b) *Clostridium difficile* was mentioned on the death certificate, in 2005 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)[1] or Clostridium difficile[2] was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2005 to 2607[3]

		Persons
	MRSA	*Clostridium difficile*
2005	1,649	3,757
2006	1,652	6,480
2007	1,593	8,324

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of working age adults were in employment in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [240515]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of working age adults were in employment in each local authority in each year since 1997. [240515]

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of working age persons in employment (Males aged 16-64, Females Aged 16-59) in each local authority for the 12 month periods ending in February, for 1998-2004, from the annual LFS, and for the 12 month periods ending December, for 2004-2007, from the APS. Estimates for April 2007 to March 2008 from the APS have also been included as being the latest available. Table 2 shows the percentage of persons of working age in employment for the same periods and geographies as Table 1. A copy of the tables has been placed in the Library of the House.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of new additional jobs created since 1997 in the *(a)* public sector and *(b)* private sector. [241590]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of new additional jobs created since 1997 in the (a) public sector and (b) private sector. (241590)

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Survey and for the private sector as part of the Labour Force Survey. However, statistics related to job creation are not collected.

However we can provide the growth in employment within both sectors. The data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Public and private sector employment headcount[1]

	Public sector[2]	*Private sector*[3]
1997 Q2	5,179	21,315
2008 Q2	5,771	23,767
Growth (headcount)	592	2,452
Growth (percentage)	11.4	11.5

[1] Headcount figures are in thousands. [2] Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey. [3] Source: Labour Force Survey.

Government Procurement Card

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which departments and agencies utilise the Government Procurement Card. [241760]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 1,153 UK public sector organisations utilising the Government Procurement Card Service. A full list has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Suicide: Coproxamol

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many suicides have been caused by the drug coproxamol in each of the last three years. [240754]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician. I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides have been caused by the drug Co-proxamol in each of the last three years. (240754)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was suicide by drug poisoning and a paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene compound (co-proxamol) was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Where more than one drug is mentioned on the death certificate, it is not always possible to tell which of them was primarily responsible for the death.

Table 1. Number of deaths where suicide by drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death[1] *with a paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene compound mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007*[2,3,4]

Deaths

	Paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene compound only	*Paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene compound and other substances*	*Total mentions of paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene*
2005	78	134	161
2008	82	65	80
2007	60	51	61

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (3CD-10) codes X60-X64, Y10-Y34 and a paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene compound was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales included deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Where paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene were the only drugs mentioned on the death certificate, and where paracetamol and dextropropoxyphene were mentioned with other substances. Figures include deaths where dextropropoxyphene was mentioned without paracetamol, since in England and Wales dextropropoxyphene is very rarely ingested except in combination with paracetamol.

Teenage Pregnancy

John Bercow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the conception rate was among girls aged under 18 years in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [240377]

Kevin Brennan: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate was among girls aged under 18 years in (a) 2006 and (b) 2007. (240377)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

The number and rate of conceptions to girls aged under 18 in 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), for England and Wales are shown below.

Number and rate of conceptions to girls aged under 18, England and Wales

Year	*Number*	*Rate*[1]
2006	41,768	41

1 Per 1,000 female population aged 15-17.

Textile Industry: Manpower

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the *(a)* weaving, *(b)* spinning, *(c)* dyeing, *(d)* finishing and making-up and *(e)* silk industry sectors of the clothing and textiles industry at the latest date for which figures are available. [240416]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many people were employed in the (a) weaving, (b) spinning, (c) dying, (d) finishing and making-up and (e) silk industry sectors of the clothing and textiles industry at the latest date for which figures are available (240416).

Table 1, attached, shows the number of employee jobs in the weaving, spinning, finishing and making-up, and silk industries in Great Britain in 2006.

Estimates of employment are usually provided using the Labour Force Survey. However because of the interest in industrial sector, your question has been answered using the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), which provides estimates at the 4-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC03) level.

'The ABI is a business survey which provides estimates of employment according to the number of jobs. The estimates exclude people who are self-employed workers in the industry sectors requested. Please note that dyeing employment estimates cannot be provided separately using 4-digit SIC03, and estimates for the silk industry are also included under weaving and spinning.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Business Inquiry are subject to margins of uncertainly.

Table 1: Number of employee jobs in selected clothing and textile industries[1], 2006—Great Britain

	Number (thousand)
Weaving[2]	7
Spinning[3]	5
Finishing and Making-up[4]	86
Silk[5]	3

[1] Using four-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC03)

[2] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1721-1725 (which includes weaving of silk).

[3] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1711-1717 (which includes spinning of silk).

[4] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1740-1330.

[5] The four digit SIC03 codes used are1715 and 1724.

Source:
Annual Business Inquiry

Unemployment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years was in each month of the last 10 years. [241444]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (ill) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years was in each month of the last 10 years. (241444)

The attached table provides estimated employment and unemployment rates for the categories requested, for each quarter since 1998. Monthly data is not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the figures from quarter 3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Public Relations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on external *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each of the last five years. [242291]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* In DEFRA, public relations covers a wide range of activity which forms an important element of a broader communications mix. This can include advertising, direct marketing, live events and publications. The following table shows what public relations activity was procured via DEFRA's Communications Directorate since FY 2004-05 using the COI Public Relations Framework.

Financial year	*PR agency*	*Campaign*	*Expenditure (£)*
2004-05	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	58,788
2005-06	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	67,084
	Weber Shandwick	Climate Change	86,781
2006-07	EdComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	50,872
	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	48,973
	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT on CO_2 campaign	49,250
	Amazon PR	Sustainable development	48,973
2007-08	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT on CO_2 campaign (including a series of regional roadshows)	476,301
	Munro and Forster	Waste	64,424
	Trimedia Communications UK	Climate Change Champions	32,216
	EdComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	242,578
April 2008 to November 2008	EDComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	28,230
	Munro and Forster	ACT on CO2 campaign	77,788

We do not collate expenditure under the heading 'public affairs'.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242602]

Hilary Benn: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. My latest official duty outside London was on 28 November, when I attended the meeting of the Cabinet in Leeds. I travelled to and from Leeds by train.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Environment Agency's first flooding engineers to graduate from university and take up positions in the agency. [241507]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The first Environment Agency Foundation Degree students in flood and coastal engineering graduated from the University of the West of England in 2006. To date, 75 students have graduated and over 90 per cent. are employed by the Environment Agency as technician engineers.

There are currently 138 engineering graduates and students training with the Environment Agency under a national development programme that includes the Foundation Degree students, Masters Degree students from various universities and graduates under professional training agreements. The Environment Agency expects that 50 engineering staff will join its business each year by 2010 through this programme.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on repairs of critical infrastructure which is at risk from flooding. [241499]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have had discussions with the Environment Agency on this and other matters. The agency has held a significant number of discussions with local resilience forums and emergency services about the critical infrastructure in their areas. The agency has also provided extensive advice to operators of critical national infrastructure and is currently working closely with them to identify their sites at risk and provide them with appropriate flood warnings.

Forestry Commission: Public Relations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on public relations: Forestry Commission, if he will break down the indicative cost for 2007-08 by category of services provided. [242088]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The nature of the Forestry Commission's activities means that individual staff deal with several aspects of communications as part of a single project and it is therefore not possible to break down costs into discrete communications activities. An indicative breakdown can be given for the broad areas of activity.

Promotion of the public forest estate, including advertising and marketing of events, promotion of visitor facilities and attractions and literature for walks, cycling facilities etc., amounted to £316,000.

Press, media and internet communications carried out by Forestry Commission staff and external agencies working on the Commission's behalf amounted to £544,000.

Corporate publicity, which includes the promotion of sustainable forestry policy and practice, grants and licences literature, events and trade shows amounted to £120,000.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1218-22W, on non-departmental public bodies, how the budget savings over the period *(a)* 2007-08 to 2008-09 and *(b)* 2008-09 to 2010 of (i) Natural England, (ii) Carbon Trust, (iii) Encams, (iv) RPA Operations and (v) the Marine and Fisheries Agency break down among spending areas. [240842]

Huw Irranca-Davies: *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The budgets for Natural England, Carbon Trust, Encams, RPA Operations and the Marine and Fisheries Agency, split between resource and capital spending areas are provided in the following table. A comparison between years is also provided.

Budgets are set annually, based on forecast workloads contained in business plans. Budget savings are managed in-year through normal budget monitoring and management procedures and the outcome reported in the relevant bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Budgets 2007-08 to 2009-10

£ million

	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
	Resource	*Capital*	*Total*	*Resource*	*Capital*	*Total*	*Resource*	*Capital*	*Total*
Natural England	175.3	5.7	181.0	169.8	6.1	175.9	165.8	6.1	171.9
Carbon Trust	70.7	20.0	90.7	58.7	30.4	89.1	58.7	27.0	85.7
ENCAMS	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0
RPA Operations	239.1	25.1	264.2	201.6	22.0	223.6	182.7	19.6	202.3
Marine and Fisheries Agency	20.7	4.0	24.7	20.5	3.0	23.5	20.5	3.0	23.5

Budget changes between the years

£ million

	2007-08:2008-09			2008-09:2009-10		
	Resource	*Capital*	*Total*	*Resource*	*Capital*	*Total*
Natural England	-5.5	0.4	-5.1	-4.0	0.0	-4.0
Carbon Trust	-12.0	10.4	-1.6	0.0	-3.4	-3.4
ENCAMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RPA Operations	-37.5	-3.1	-40.6	-18.9	-2.4	-21.3
Marine and Fisheries Agency	-0.2	-1.0	-1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Pesticides: Crop Spraying

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take on regulation of pesticide spraying following the recent High Court ruling by Mr. Justice Collins on the matter. [241062]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This is a complex judgment and we need to consider it carefully.

The protection of human health is paramount. Pesticides used in this country are rigorously assessed to the same standards as the rest of the EU and use is only ever authorised after internationally approved tests. These explicitly include impacts on people who live next to fields, consumers who eat treated crops and farmers who do the spraying.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: (a) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (b) performance bonuses linked to the end of year staff appraisal, which are awarded to staff who have had a highly successful performance over a whole year.

The following table shows the breakdown of the bonuses awarded:

	Bonuses 2007-08	
	Number awarded	*Total amount (£)*
Performance Bonuses (non-SCS)	196	225,350
Senior Civil Service Performance Bonuses	24	251,750
Special Bonuses	207	87,000
Total	427	564,100

WALES

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240463]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department currently keeps records of expenditure on all official receptions held.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Chairman's Work Load

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many hours per week the proposed Chairman of the Electoral Commission will be expected to work; and if he will make a statement. [242322]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Speaker's Committee decided in December 2007 that in future the post of Chairman of the Electoral Commission should be filled on a part-time basis. Accordingly, the panel appointed by Mr. Speaker to select a candidate for the appointment advertised it in March 2008 on the basis of a time commitment of typically three days a week. The precise terms and conditions are to be agreed between the new Chairman and the Commission.

Police Authorities

Hugh Bayley: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what consideration the Electoral Commission has given to the arrangements which would be necessary to elect members of police authorities. [242328]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is aware of proposals in the July 2008 Policing Green Paper for directly elected crime and policing representatives in England and Wales. It plans to give further consideration to the administrative arrangements for such elections, including the time scales for implementing new elections and the funding provided for their administration, when more detailed proposals are published.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effect on levels of congestion on the Dartford-Thurrock toll crossing consequent on the introduction of the revised tariff for a car from £1.00 to £1.50; and if he will make a statement. [241097]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is closely monitoring the impact of the new charging regime on traffic. It is too soon to draw firm conclusions as traffic levels on particular days can be influenced by other factors, for example incidents on neighbouring parts of the network and promotional days at nearby retail centres. However early indications are that there has been some switching of traffic from the charged period (6 am to 10 pm) into the free night-time period.

Official Cars

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 116WS, on the cost of Ministerial cars for 2007-08, which Ministers and senior civil servants had use of a Government Car and Despatch Agency vehicle in 2007-08. [242050]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Ministerial Code sets out who is entitled to use an official car provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the working group on the Severn Bridge is expected to present its findings. [240342]

Paul Clark: The working group presented its findings in early October to the Highways Agency's chief executive.

The working group established that, in principle, it is feasible to accept credit/debit cards as a method of toll payment at Severn Crossings. A number of detailed operational, technical, financial and contractual issues need to be considered.

Negotiations with the Concessionaire began on 20 October and the Concessionaire has since commenced detailed financial discussions with the banks and equipment suppliers.

Transport: North-East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government has spent on capital transport infrastructure projects in the north-east in each year since 1997. [242384]

Paul Clark: The funding allocation provided by the Department for Transport for capital transport infrastructure projects in the north-east in each year since 1997 is as follows.

£ million

	Integrated transport block	*Highways maintenance*	*Other funding*[1]	*Total funding for transport infrastructure projects*
2007-08	33.920	42.181	17.023	93.124
2006-07	33.180	44.165	12.002	89.347
2005-06	33.400	44.170	20.316	97.886
2004-05	40.337	47.095	20.199	107.631
2003-04	36.500	35.878	31.420	103.798
2002-03	35.400	36.120	34.474	105.994
2001-02	34.940	34.195	25.792	94.927
2000-01	16.100	40.820	40.820	97.740

[1] Other funding comprises funding major schemes, capital de-trunking and capital road safety.

Funding allocations made prior to Local Transport Plan Funding.

	Total allocation (£ million)
1999-2000	42.500
1998-99	31.981
1997-98	40.119

Since April 1997 the Government have also provided specific capital funding for the Tyne and Wear Metro amounting to £65.626 million. Up to and including 2004-05 this was provided solely as revenue support although Nexus were able to use this for capital spending on the Metro.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Directgov

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unique visitors have used the Directgov website in each of the last five years. [242522]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov's core usage measure is visits rather than unique users. Monthly visits for 2008 are shown as follows:

Month	*Visits (million)*
2004	
January	n/a
February	n/a
March	n/a
April	n/a
May	0.4
June	0.6
July	0.8
August	0.8
September	0.8
October	0.9
November	0.9
December	0.8
Total 2004	6.0
2005	
January	1.3
February	1.2
March	1.2
April	1.4
May	1.4
June	1.2
July	1.3
August	1.5
September	1.8
October	2.0
November	2.0
December	1.4
Total 2005	17.7
2006	
January	2.2
February	2.1
March	2.9
April	2.4
May	2.7
June	2.7
July	2.7
August	3.0
September	3.4
October	3.5
November	3.5
December	2.6
Total 2006	33.7
2007	
January	4.1
February	4.1
March	5.3
April	4.6
May	5.2
June	5.5
July	5.5
August	5.4
September	5.6
October	6.1
November	6.1
December	4.4

Month	*Visits (million)*
Total 2007	61.9
2008	
January	8.1
February	7.2
March	8.4
April	8.2
May	7.1
June	7.8
July	7.9
August	10.1
September	11.3
October	11.3
November	11.0
December	n/a
Total 2008 (up to November)	98.4

Note:
Figures for 2008 include an adjustment for electronic vehicle licensing (from August).

Directgov has unique user statistics for part of our site but does not yet measure unique users for all our sub domains.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which sub-sites of the Directgov website have *(a)* received the most direct visitors and *(b)* recorded the most online transactions in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the performance of each sub-site against objectives in creating two-way engagement between the citizen and government. [242531]

Jonathan Shaw: The Directgov Motoring section and electronic vehicle licensing (eVL) were the sub-sites that received the most direct visitors and recorded the most online transactions in the last 12 months.

We are looking at how we might make citizens who complete a transaction on one of these sub-sites aware of what else Directgov has to offer. This is relatively simple to do but requires the Departments who manage the content or own the transaction on the sub-sites to include the necessary changes to allow us to advertise other services.

One area in which we have seen a degree of success is the Act on CO_2 campaign. The offline advertising calls for citizens to search online for the campaign without mentioning Directgov. Yet we know that about a fifth of people accessing the Act on CO_2 campaign site have come from a promotion on the main Directgov website suggesting that they found the campaign while looking at something else on Directgov.

Directgov: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of running the Directgov website was in each of the last five years. [242521]

Jonathan Shaw: Expenditure on the Directgov website since its launch in 2004 has been as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	4.6
2005-06	9.7
2006-07	11.9
2007-08	13.1

In addition, the following expenditure was incurred on non-web channels (i.e. kiosk, DTV and mobile):

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	0.4
2005-06	0.8
2006-07	0.8
2007-08	0.8

Expenditure for the current year (2008-09) is not yet available.

Directgov: Marketing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Directgov website is being promoted to the public. [242520]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov is promoted to the public through a variety of online and offline channels. Online promotion includes partnership arrangements with sites such as AOL and MSN. Directgov also undertakes search engine optimisation and pay per click activity with search engines such as Google, MSN and Yahoo.

Offline channels include an ongoing PR programme plus partnership activities with intermediaries such as Jobcentre Plus and UK Online Centres.

Directgov also undertook a month long marketing campaign in February 2006 and again in March 2008 which focused on the depth and breadth of the Directgov offer, new transactional content on the website, and on Directgov's multi-channel presence.

Looking ahead, as Directgov becomes the main point of entry to public services online, there is an imperative to generate a higher level of awareness of Directgov and its services to the public. Therefore Directgov is planning a national marketing campaign to run over the next three years, starting in January 2009. It will be a multi-media campaign, using TV, radio, print, partnerships, ambient and online channels to increase understanding of the depth and breadth of information and services available through Directgov on the web, mobile and DiTV. The aim is to demonstrate relevance to citizens and increase propensity to use Directgov, with consequential increase in brand awareness and visitor numbers to Directgov. This will help Departments to realise the benefits from Directgov by increasing use of the online channel.

Allied to this, we are looking at how we can use alternative channels such as branded 'widgets' and applications to deploy content onto third party sites in the future.

Directgov: Standards

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Directgov website; and what criteria have been established to assess its effectiveness. [242523]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov has a benefits framework covering two customer groups: the citizen and Government Departments. Within each of these groups, performance is determined with reference to five benefits categories. Each of these benefit categories is evidenced by KPIs drawn from a variety of sources.

The effectiveness of Directgov is then monitored through regular reporting against these supporting KPIs. The main sources of information include:

Customer surveys (citizen)—conducted quarterly

Stakeholder surveys (Government Departments)—conducted every six months

Web metrics—available continuously

Brand research—conducted annually (in addition before and after the marketing campaign).

Performance against the framework is assessed on a quarterly basis and reported to the Directgov board.

Currently Directgov is performing well against the target KPIs in each category.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impairment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered blind people receive the *(a)* low and *(b)* middle rate mobility component of the disability living allowance (i) in each (A) region and (B) constituency and (ii) nationwide. [241009]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1969W.

Employment Services: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment programme lone parents with children under the age of 12 years will be eligible to take part in once the flexible new deal has been implemented nationally and employment zone contracts have ended; and if he will make a statement. [241007]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2002-003W.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of abolishing the single room rent and paying housing benefit claimants the same rate of benefit irrespective of their age in the last 12 months. [241011]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1975W.

Lone Parents: Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on lone parents: income support, what progress has been made towards developing a communications strategy to support the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in *(a)* October 2008, *(b)* October 2009 and *(c)* October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [241044]

Kitty Ussher: A communication strategy to support the changes to the eligibility rules for Income Support affecting lone parents is currently being implemented.

The strategy has a very clear focus on the need for timely and accurate communications to (1) customers affected by the changes, (2) Jobcentre Plus staff in roles impacted by the changes, and (3) external stakeholders involved in giving accurate advice to customers.

Key objectives of the communications strategy are to ensure that the following audiences receive co-ordinated, timely and tailored messages, as follows:

Existing lone parent customers and those making new or repeat claims to Income Support—understand the changes and how they will be affected

Advisers working with customers—know how the changes will impact on them and their lone parent customers

Stakeholders external to Jobcentre Plus—are clear on these changes and the effect they will have upon them and their customers.

To meet these objectives the strategy includes the following:

Mailshots sent direct on 6 October 2008 to specific lone parent customers, which outline the effect that the changes may have on them, including new requirements for quarterly attendance at work-focused interviews and how their claim to disability premium could be affected (where relevant).

A further mailshot in on 24 November 2008 to lone parents affected, confirming that the changes have been approved by Parliament. This will be supported by local mailshots to offer voluntary interviews 6 weeks prior to the end of the lone parents' Income Support.

Providing lone parent customers with detailed information factsheets that clearly outline the changes for them and the action they may need to take with the support of their adviser.

A leaflet and poster campaign to explain in visual format the steps each lone parent will take as the changes impact them.

Local 'Options and Choices' events for lone parents that explain the changes and offer advice and guidance in preparing for work (these have been in place since April 2008).

Publication of details of the changes on both the DWP and Jobcentre Plus Internet sites.

A range of products available to Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure that they are able to deliver the correct messages to customers including briefings, desk aids, presentations, key messages, links to guidance and supporting articles in internal publications. This also includes roadshows delivered to senior managers to ensure understanding of the changes.

Numerous presentations to key external stakeholders and close engagement with external lone parent voluntary groups.

The same approach is proposed for introduction of Phase 2 of the changes in 2009 and Phase 3 in 2010. However, in spring 2009 we will evaluate the Phase 1 communications and feed these findings into communication plans for the next phases.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants to people in (i) each Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) each region in each month since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [240516]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2027W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Jobcentre Plus districts underspent their allocations for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants in each year since 2003; how much and what proportion of the budget for each such district the underspend represented; and if he will make a statement. [240517]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2026-027W.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit payments and *(b)* pension payments were issued by giro cheque in each (i) constituency and (ii) region in each of the last three years. [241063]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of benefit and pension accounts paid by cheque in each constituency for each of the last three years will be placed in the Library.

The number of benefit and pension accounts paid by cheque in each region for the same period is shown in the following table.

All cheque payments by government office region and pension/other benefit: April 2006 to April 2008

	All	*Other benefit*	*State pension*
April 2006			
All	469,680	365,100	104,580
North East	23,870	19,660	4,210
North West	58,880	47,350	11,530
Yorks and Humber	43,350	33,620	9,730
East Midlands	32,780	26,030	6,750
West Midlands	46,930	37,390	9,530
East	35,830	27,770	8,050
London	60,430	49,440	11,000
South East	52,400	39,600	12,790
South West	43,920	29,920	14,000
Wales	25,950	19,720	6,230
Scotland	45,350	34,600	10,750
April 2007			
All	453,900	366,440	87,460
North East	23,850	20,300	3,550
North West	57,170	47,550	9,620
Yorks and Humber	40,000	32,210	7,790
East Midlands	32,040	26,440	5,590
West Midlands	46,960	38,980	7,980
East	35,010	28,150	6,860
London	57,340	48,250	9,080
South East	49,780	38,820	10,960
South West	42,930	30,980	11,950
Wales	26,230	20,860	5,370
Scotland	42,600	33,890	8,710
April 2008			
All	422,040	346,350	75,690
North East	24,460	21,280	3,180
North West	52,690	44,460	8,230
Yorks and Humber	36,790	29,880	6,910
East Midlands	30,540	25,730	4,810
West Midlands	43,960	37,140	6,830
East	31,890	25,960	5,930
London	51,370	43,780	7,590
South East	47,160	37,590	9,560
South West	38,670	28,120	10,550
Wales	25,280	20,540	4,740
Scotland	39,250	31,870	7,380

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are at April in each year, 2006 to 2008.
3. Figures refer to payment accounts. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment on the specified date.
4. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus staff in relation to the time allowed to interview claimants by Jobcentre Plus. [241644]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance has been issued to Jobcentre Plus staff in relation to the time allowed to interview claimants by Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus conducts a wide range of different interviews to meet both business and customer needs. Guidance to staff outlines the purpose and content of each interview type and the average length of time these should take to complete. Each interview takes into account the time required to undertake activities that must be covered in every interview and those that are only required as and when individual customer circumstances dictate.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospitals there have been in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley, *(b)* the London Borough of Greenwich and *(c)* the London Borough of Bromley in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex of patients admitted. [242905]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of alcohol-related finished admissions in the London boroughs of Bexley, Greenwich and Bromley for each year since 2002-03 to 2006-07 can be found in the following table. Data for earlier years are not available. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are available.

Number of alcohol-related finished admissions

			2002-03			*2003-04*			*2004-05*	
London borough	*Age*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Bexley	Under 16	15	*	*	30	10	20	25	7	18
	16-24	38	*	*	58	44	14	80	50	30
	25-34	69	43	27	81	54	27	90	63	27
	35-44	95	60	35	141	101	40	163	98	66
	45-54	110	79	31	136	99	37	138	84	55
	55-64	104	71	33	130	85	46	161	104	56
	65-74	106	68	38	131	93	37	169	110	60
	75 or over	168	86	82	247	128	119	282	145	137
	Total	706	439	267	954	614	340	1,109	661	449
Bromley	Under 16	10	*	*	22	11	11	19	7	12
	16-24	71	*	*	101	60	41	132	80	52
	25-34	106	57	49	120	72	48	121	71	50
	35-44	155	87	68	196	113	83	235	138	97
	45-54	199	129	70	236	158	78	283	185	98
	55-64	196	136	60	276	172	104	341	233	108
	65-74	228	155	73	276	187	89	349	233	116
	75 or over	443	225	218	559	282	277	674	355	320
	Total	1,408	870	538	1,786	1,054	732	2,154	1,303	851
Greenwich	Under 16	9	*	*	14	*	*	20	*	*
	16-24	81	*	*	85	*	*	109	*	*
	25-34	107	68	39	138	81	57	167	109	59
	35-44	160	103	57	206	136	71	271	185	86
	45-54	154	121	33	236	176	60	297	218	79
	55-64	167	119	48	215	158	57	273	199	75
	65-74	136	91	45	198	144	54	266	184	83
	75 or over	225	116	109	303	159	145	393	211	183
	Total	1,039	708	331	1,396	952	444	1,797	1,233	564

			2005-06			*2006-07*	
London borough	*Age*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Bexley	Under 16	31	12	19	25	9	16
	16-24	85	51	34	65	42	23
	25-34	96	63	33	92	57	36
	35-44	162	87	75	130	77	53
	45-54	163	100	63	184	120	64
	55-64	187	124	63	196	141	54
	65-74	175	115	60	217	149	67
	75 or over	304	162	142	319	176	142
	Total	1,204	715	488	1,228	772	457
Bromley	Under 16	27	15	12	29	9	20
	16-24	146	83	63	129	76	53
	25-34	152	96	56	157	89	68
	35-44	294	196	98	281	169	112
	45-54	298	200	98	308	193	115
	55-64	372	249	123	400	272	128
	65-74	378	266	112	423	285	137

		2005-06			2006-07		
London borough	*Age*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
	75 or over	781	394	387	808	404	404
	Total	2,449	1,500	949	2,535	1,497	1,037
Greenwich	Under 16	24	10	14	15	*	*
	16-24	115	69	46	99	*	*
	25-34	213	138	74	170	118	52
	35-44	261	185	76	251	165	86
	45-54	299	230	69	335	248	87
	55-64	303	218	85	280	202	78
	65-74	244	159	85	253	164	89
	75 or over	407	219	188	394	205	189
	Total	1,867	1,229	638	1,797	1,217	580

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

3. Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions".

4. Emergency admissions

Includes all types of emergency admission (Method of admission codes 21-28).

5. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

6. Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

7. Secondary diagnoses

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (6 prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

8. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record.

Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

9. Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Allergies: Research

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was made available by his Department for allergy research in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241766]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The available information is shown in the following table.

	Departmental expenditure on allergy research (£000)
2003-04	590
2004-05	483
2005-06	371
2006-07	768
2007-08	1,183

The departmental figures relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the significant expenditure on allergy research from the research and development allocations that have over the last 10 years been made annually to national health service providers. That information is not held centrally.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. It funds a large portfolio of allergy research.

Anti-depressants: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of prescribing anti-depressant drugs in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [242904]

Dawn Primarolo: The British National Formulary (BNF) classifies anti-depressant drugs within section 4.3. The following table shows the net ingredient cost for drugs within this section that have been prescribed in Bexley Care Trust, which covers the London borough of Bexley. As this information is available for the most recent 60 months at any one time, figures exist only for four complete financial years (April to March inclusive).

Net ingredient cost and number of prescription items of antidepressant drugs (BNF section 4.3) in Bexley Care Trust, 2004-05 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Primary care trust name*	*BNF section name*	*Net ingredient cost (£)*
2004-05	Bexley Care Trust	Antidepressant Drugs	1,119,010
2005-06	Bexley Care Trust	Antidepressant Drugs	895,117
2006-07	Bexley Care Trust	Antidepressant Drugs	810,164
2007-08	Bexley Care Trust	Antidepressant Drugs	763,942

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (ePACT).

Breast Feeding

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to bring about an increase in levels of breastfeeding. [241346]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to the promotion of breastfeeding and the prevalence of breastfeeding at six to eight weeks is a key indicator in the Child Health and Well-being Public Service Agreement. 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' a cross-government strategy for obesity (January 2008) aims to reverse the rise in childhood obesity and breastfeeding plays an integral role in this. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Key actions to increase levels of breastfeeding include the investment of £4 million for the primary care trusts (PCTs) to develop local interventions to promote breastfeeding, including the training of frontline staff; the provision of easily accessible and timely advice to breastfeeding mothers through the national breastfeeding helpline; the recently launched breastfeeding DVD "From bump to breastfeeding" given to all new mothers in England via their midwives and health visitors.

Other key activities include the development of a care pathway for the frontline health professionals; the provision of commissioning guidance for PCTs; and the establishment of a regional and local network to promote breastfeeding.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made on the implementation of the vascular checks programme; and if he will make a statement; [241535]

(2) what the mechanism is for allocating funding for the vascular checks programme to primary care trusts. [241536]

Ann Keen: Phased implementation of the programme will begin in April 2009 and on 13 November we published a "Next Steps" guide to help primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission the service. A copy has been placed in the Library. We will continue to work with our statements to provide advice and support on the implementation and delivery of the vascular checks programme.

The funding for the vascular checks programme is included in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations, announced on 8 December.

Funding is allocated to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The components of the formula are used to weight each PCT's 'crude' population according to their relative need (age, and additional need) for health care and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing health care (market forces factor).

Care Homes: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths in care homes were attributed to each notifiable infectious disease in each year since 1997. [240770]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Children: Health Visitors

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, Health (1) how many home visits on average a child considered to be at *(a)* low risk and *(b)* high risk received from an allocated health visitor in the first two years following assessment in each London borough in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241902]

(2) what the average number of cases allocated to health visitors in each London borough was between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [241912]

(3) what the average number of cases allocated to health visitors in each London borough was in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [241913]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241181]

Dawn Primarolo: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the programme can be found at

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

The Department of Health recognises that climate change will affect the health of UK citizens and in February, this year (2008) updated its 2001-02 report on the "Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK". A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Climate impacts affect many departmental responsibilities. We have worked closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to develop the adaptation sections of the Climate Change Act. There are therefore no plans at present to publish a separate climate change adaptation strategy as this would be seen as a duplication of the work that DEFRA are taking forward.

The key areas for the national health service in adapting to climate change include adapting the health and social care infrastructure (hospitals, nursing homes) to be more resilient to the effects of heat and floods; development of local 'Heatwave' and 'Flood' plans for coping with disasters; and increasing awareness of how people can adapt to changes in climate.

One of the effects of climate change already encountered in this country is the increased frequency of heat waves. The devastating heat wave across Europe in 2003 led to the Department of Health first launching its National Heatwave Plan in 2004, in which a 'Heat-Health Watch' system operates in England during the summer months, with advice from the Met Office, with four levels of response and appropriate advice.

Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each primary care trust have received continuing care in each quarter per 10,000 population *(a)* since the application of the national framework for continuing care and *(b)* for two years prior to the application of the national framework for continuing care; and how many people per 10,000 population met the eligibility criteria for continuing care for the first time (i) since the application of the national framework for continuing care and (ii) in the two years prior to the application of the national framework for continuing care. [241436]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were receiving continuing care in the last quarter for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* the length of time for which they had been receiving continuing care. [241500]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Information on the length of time in receipt of continuing care is not collected centrally.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many invoices submitted to his Department in the last month for which figures are available were paid within 10 days of receipt; and how many remained unpaid after 28 days. [242664]

Mr. Bradshaw: During November 2008 the Department received 14,890 invoices, of which 14,663 were paid within 10 days this equates to 98.5 per cent.

Only 43 payments were made after 30 days and this equates to 0.29 per cent. The remaining 184 invoices (1.24 per cent.) were paid between 10 and 30 days.

Depressive Illnesses: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with mild or moderate depression in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [242906]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Most people with depression are seen and treated in primary care. However, data on the number of people with individual conditions seen in primary care—such as depression—are not held centrally. While data are available on the total number of people admitted to the care of a consultant in secondary care with depression, they are likely to exclude many patients diagnosed with mild to moderate depression.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trigger offences lead to drug testing as part of his Department's drug intervention programme; and whether he plans to include further offences within that definition. [240589]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The trigger offences are set out in Schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. These are the offences which have been shown to have the clearest link with drug misuse, particularly the misuse of heroin and cocaine/crack and are listed.

Trigger offences with effect from 1 August

1. Offences under the following provisions of the Theft Act 1968 are trigger offences:

section 1 (theft)

section 8 (robbery)

section 9 (burglary)

section 10 (aggravated burglary)

section 12 (taking motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority)

section 12A (aggravated vehicle-taking)

section 22 (handling stolen goods)[1]

section 25 (going equipped for stealing, etc.)

2. Offences under the following provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are trigger offences if committed in respect of a specified Class A drug:

section 4 (restriction on production and supply of controlled drugs)

section 5(2) (possession of controlled drug)

section 5(3) (possession of controlled drug with intent to supply)

3. Offences under the following provisions of the Fraud Act 2006 are trigger offences[2]

section 1 (fraud)

section 6 (possession etc. of articles for use in frauds)

section 7 (making or supplying articles for use in frauds)

3A. An offence under section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 is a trigger offence, if committed in respect of an offence under

(a) any of the following provisions of the Theft Act 1968[1]

section 1 (theft)

section 8 (robbery)

section 9 (burglary)

section 22 (handling stolen goods, or

(b) section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006 (fraud)[3]

4. Offences under the following provisions of the Vagrancy Act 1824 are trigger offences[1]

section 3 (begging)

section 4 (persistent begging)

[1] Offences added to the trigger offences in Schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 by The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 (Amendment) Order 2004, (S.I. 2004/1892), which came into force on 27 July 2004.

[2] Offences added by the Fraud Act 2006, which came into force on 15 January 2007

[3] Offence added by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 (Amendment) Order 2007 which came into force on 1 August 2007

Drug testing of people who have been arrested or charged with a trigger offence is conducted in authorised police stations across England and Wales as part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP).

Those arrested /charged with non-trigger offences may also be tested, where a police officer of at least Inspector rank has reasonable grounds to suspect that misuse of any specified Class A drug caused or contributed to the offence and authorises the taking of a sample.

DIP regularly reviews the list of trigger offences.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures his Department has in place for routine scrutiny of serious case reviews in respect of elder abuse; [240487]

(2) which serious case reviews his Department took into account in preparing its consultation document on safeguarding vulnerable adults and the No Secrets guidance. [240488]

Phil Hope: Serious case reviews are locally commissioned and reviewed. The Department does not routinely review local serious case reviews. As part of the development of the consultation document on the review of "No Secrets", research commissioned on serious case reviews was considered: this involved 15 reports of serious case reviews. The Department commissioned and funded King's College London to undertake this research in England and Wales. A research report is expected to be published this winter.

Exercise: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National School Pedometer programme in improving children's health. [240370]

Dawn Primarolo: Following a successful pilot in 2006 in which 43 schools were followed, the National School Step-O-Meter programme (Schools on the Move) was launched in a further 250 schools, located in deprived areas, in July 2007.

A full evaluation of the pilot year was undertaken by the London Sport Institute, Middlesex University in September 2006, which showed encouraging increases in children's activity levels. A further monitoring and evaluation study has been designed and we are expecting a full report on the initiative in December 2009.

A copy of the evaluation report for the Schools on the Move pilot year has been placed in the Library.

Food: Labelling

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of front-of-pack food labelling designed to assist people to make healthier food choices. [240367]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency recommends that businesses use front of pack nutrition labelling based on four core principles:

provision of information for fat, saturated fat, sugars and salt;

red, amber or green colour coding to provide at a glance information on the level (ie whether high, medium or low) of individual nutrients in a product;

provision of additional information on the levels of nutrients present in a portion of the product; and

use of the nutritional criteria developed by the agency.

This recommendation is based on a comprehensive set of consumer research data which indicated that this was the approach most likely to be helpful to consumers.

With publication of "Healthy Weight Healthy Lives" in January 2008 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) the Government committed to finding a single, simple and effective approach to food labelling to be used by the whole food industry, based on the principles that will be recommended by the Food Standards Agency in light of independent research currently being undertaken. This research is evaluating the effectiveness of front of pack signpost labelling schemes currently in use in the United Kingdom market place in terms of enabling consumers to make healthier choices. The research is expected to be published in April 2009.

Headaches

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much per patient per year was spent on headache disorder research in the latest period for which figures are available. [241422]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Health Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Teaching Public Health Networks in providing training opportunities. [240375]

Dawn Primarolo: The nine regional Teaching Public Health Networks (TPHNs) were established in 2006, as a commitment arising from Choosing Health. The aim of TPHNs is to establish an integrated and inclusive approach to the development of public health education across organisations and sectors, at all skill and professional levels. They have an important role in raising the awareness of public health education and training opportunities among all professional groups to help them understand how their job influences public health.

In addition to working on local priorities to change and enhance curriculums and skills, to include consideration of public health capabilities and knowledge, the networks are also taking a lead role in reviewing public health educator capacity across academic and service sectors.

While the primary role of the teaching public health network is not to deliver courses and provide training opportunities, many of the networks have worked on the development of short courses within their lead area.

No formal assessment of the effectiveness of the TPHNs in providing training opportunities has been carried out to date, although the activity of the networks are formally evaluated by the Department annually. Discussions are currently ongoing to inform the next business planning cycle, including the evaluation of current initiatives such as the TPHNs.

Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the voluntary sector will be eligible for funding from the new strategic health authority innovation funds. [240537]

Dawn Primarolo: The new strategic health authority innovation funds are intended to be accessed by the broadest range of organisations, bodies and individuals possible, working either in the NHS or in partnership with the national health service. This will include the voluntary sector.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in each region in each year since 1997 for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [241932]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors in each region in England in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified health visitors in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

											Headcount
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	12,410	12,572	12,800	12,827	13,053	12,774	12,984	13,303	12,818	2,034	11,569
North East Strategic Health Authority area	645	658	660	692	681	668	767	762	752	706	698
North West Strategic Health Authority area	1,899	1,911	1,903	1,896	1,942	1,968	1,988	2,105	2,077	2,029	1,897
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	1,293	1,323	1,320	1,290	1,466	1,413	1,448	1,505	1,451	1,389	1,301
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,025	988	1,037	1,028	1,038	1,016	988	997	967	969	925
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,302	1,346	1,420	1,410	1,435	1,391	1,406	1,417	1,257	1,184	1,269
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	1,150	1,192	1,135	1,210	1,187	1,148	1,176	1,253	1,258	1,181	1,095
London Strategic Health Authority area	1,876	1,965	2,052	1,968	1,999	1,763	1,822	1,836	1,760	1,702	1,613
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	990	1,037	1,073	1,077	1,045	1,102	1,042	1,091	1,001	794	778
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,029	947	1,011	1,025	1,002	1,064	1,115	1,036	1,020	934	856
South West Strategic Health Authority area	1,201	1,205	1,189	1,231	1,258	1,241	1,232	1,301	1,275	1,146	1,137

Note:

Data Quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census

Health: Males

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the outcomes of Men's Health Week 2008; and if he will make a statement. [240907]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department welcomes National Men's Health Week and the awareness raising opportunities it provides. The Men's Health Forum provide an evaluation of the events each year and send their findings to the Department, along with other interested parties.

Healthy Start Scheme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the healthy start scheme. [240368]

Dawn Primarolo: Plans are currently under way to evaluate the nutritional impact of Healthy Start. This will include an assessment of the extent to which Healthy Start provides a nutritional safety net for those vulnerable groups known to be most at risk of poor nutrition, and its ability to improve diet and increase awareness of healthy eating and the promotion of breast feeding.

We are also refining a comprehensive suite of management information that will allow us to assess the performance in delivering the scheme, monitoring trends in demand, scheme take up, and voucher usage.

Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to the NHS of administering a single dose of *(a)* Cervarix and *(b)* Gardisil. [242403]

Dawn Primarolo: The individual cost of the vaccine and hence the total cost to Government of the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) vaccination programme is commercial-in-confidence.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) were provided with funding to implement the national programme. A list of allocations per PCT is available from the following web link, which has been placed in the Library.

http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk/publications/HPV_DSletter190608.pdf

The cost of administering the HPV programme was estimated to be the same regardless of which vaccine was used.

Lung Diseases

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of diagnosing sufferers of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at *(a)* stage one and *(b)* stage two. [242763]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally.

Lyme's Disease

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of *(a)* Lyme's disease, *(b)* chronic Lyme's disease and *(c)* post-Lyme's syndrome is. [242070]

Dawn Primarolo: Lyme disease in people is defined as a multi-system infection with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, when, following a tick bite, infection is confirmed on the basis of either obvious clinical symptoms, such as a pink or red raised rash spreading from the site of the tick bite, or through laboratory diagnostic tests that conform to the internationally agreed testing criteria and that have the appropriate specificity and sensitivity to accurately identify the presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

The term chronic Lyme disease is not defined as there is no convincing evidence for the existence of symptomatic chronic *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection among patients after receipt of recommended treatment regimens for Lyme disease.

Post-Lyme syndrome refers to a spectrum of non-specific symptoms, similar to those of chronic or post-viral fatigue syndrome, that are reported by a small percentage of patients despite apparently adequate treatment and lack of objective evidence of continued *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection activity.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to make Lyme's disease a notifiable disease. [242261]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to make Lyme disease notifiable because there is already in place a robust surveillance system based upon laboratory reporting of all confirmed cases of *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection.

However, we are proposing to include meningitis associated with *Borrelia* infection as a notifiable infection in the proposed new regulations to be made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2008, on which we will be consulting shortly.

Medical Treatments Abroad

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of progress towards agreement of European Union proposals in relation to patients who wish to travel to other EU member states for treatment and have their costs reimbursed. [241350]

Dawn Primarolo: The draft directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border health care is subject to the co-decision procedure and is at an early stage of negotiations. In the European Parliament, the rapporteur has recently published a draft report. It is possible that the European Parliament could complete its first reading before the European elections. If not, it will need to undertake this in the next parliamentary session.

Initial discussions on the draft directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border health care have been held in the Council of the European Union working groups under the French presidency. European Union Health Ministers will discuss several issues including the draft directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border health care at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 16 December. We will provide an update to Parliament on the outcome of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council.

Mental Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether mental health service users will be guaranteed a choice of hospital under the new NHS constitution. [240538]

Ann Keen: The draft constitution states that:

> 'you have a right to make choices about your NHS care. The options available to you will develop over time and depend on your individual need'.

In the Handbook to the draft constitution it states that directions will be given by the Secretary of State under section 8 of the NHS Act to require primary care trusts to ensure that patients have a right to choose their providers. Directions will specify services covered, exceptions and whether mental health service users are included. We have recently consulted on the draft constitution and the final Constitution will be published shortly.

Mental Health Services: Public Consultation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that it obtains the views of *(a)* people who have experience of mental health problems and *(b)* organisations that represent people who have experienced mental health problems in its consultation on the Social Care Green Paper. [242209]

Phil Hope: The Department ran a public engagement process on the future of Care and Support this year, from 12 May until 28 November, in order to gather views and comments from stakeholders, service users and members of the public to help inform the Green Paper. As part of our work to ensure the engagement process was inclusive, people living with mental health problems were targeted, together with those organisations that represent them. In addition, one-to-one interviews with users of mental health services and organisations that represent them have been carried out by Ipsos-MORI and the Central Office of Information as part of the engagement process.

NHS: Billing

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all NHS trusts purchasing supplies and equipment under central NHS contracts pay invoices within 10 days of receipt. [242665]

Mr. Bradshaw: David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, wrote to all NHS Trust Chief Executives on 21 October asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. This would include cases in which trusts pay suppliers directly through contracts that have been centrally negotiated.

Organophosphates

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of ill health have been attributed to long-term exposure to organophosphates in each of the last 10 years. [241599]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no confirmed cases of ill health with long-term chronic exposure to organophosphates identified through the available reporting systems where such symptoms have been attributed to long-term exposure to organophosphates. The available reporting systems are primarily related to reporting on acute rather than chronic adverse effects.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases there have been of people suffering from *(a)* excessive fatigue, *(b)* sensory disturbance, *(c)* disturbance of higher cerebral functions, *(d)* loss of cognitive functions and *(e)* memory loss where such symptoms have been attributed to long-term exposure to organophosphates in each of the last 10 years. [241600]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no confirmed cases with excessive fatigue, sensory disturbance, disturbance of higher cerebral functions, loss of cognitive functions nor memory loss identified through the available reporting systems where such symptoms have been attributed to long-term exposure to organophosphates. The available reporting system are primarily related to the reporting of acute rather than chronic adverse effects.

Patients: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths have resulted from patient safety incidents in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available, broken down by type of incident. [241146]

Ann Keen: The table includes the numbers of patient safety incidents associated with the death of a patient that were submitted to the National Patient Safety Agency's Reporting and Learning System each year for the period from the 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008 broken down by type of incident.

Information about the number of patient safety incidents associated with the death prior to that date is not included because of the low number of incidents submitted to the Reporting and Learning System (RLS) and the reliability of the information available.

The total number of reported deaths in each financial year represent 0.4 per cent. of all patient safety incidents reported in that year.

Incidents submitted to the RLS as of 1 December 2008—where the date the incident occurred was between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008, broken down by incident type

	Financial year (April—March)		
Incident type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient)	111	158	135
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	109	157	156
Consent, communication, confidentiality	50	51	41
Disruptive, aggressive behaviour	12	14	18
Documentation (including records, identification)	11	10	14
Infection Control Incident	18	150	309
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring/review	55	75	115
Infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment)	38	48	40
Medical device/equipment	32	33	40
Medication	37	50	54
Patient abuse (by staff/third party)	5	12	22
Patient accident	100	133	171
Self-harming behaviour	419	498	487
Treatment, procedure	237	302	385
Other	1,041	1,503	1,658
Total	2,275	3,194	3,645

Incidents submitted to the RLS as of 1 December 2008—where the date the incident occurred was between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2008 by financial year (April—March): reported deaths as a proportion of all incidents occurring over the same time period

	Financial year (April—March)		
Incident type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Deaths	2,275	3,194	3,645
All incident types	596,138	767,324	892,947
Percentage of incident types reported as deaths	0.4	0.4	0.4

Pharmacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the development of specialist accreditation frameworks for pharmacists; and if he will make a statement. [240919]

Phil Hope: Near final versions of the specialist frameworks for practitioners with special interests, including pharmacists, were launched at a conference in London on 17 September 2008. We will be formally issuing the frameworks in their final form in the near future via NHS Primary Care Contracting.

Respite Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the £150 million spending for respite care announced in the carers strategy will be disbursed; to whom; and according to what formula. [241417]

Phil Hope: The £150 million funding announced in the Carer's Strategy is included in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations, announced 8 December. This money will go to all PCTs and will support all carers. These resources are referred to in the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10. A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

Funding is allocated to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each PCTs target share of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The components of the formula are used to weight each PCTs "crude" population according to their relative need (age, and additional need) for health care and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing health care (market forces factor).

Smoking

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the prevalence of smoking. [240727]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 46WS by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

Social Services: Public Consultation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he will publish responses to his Department's consultation on the Social Care Green Paper; [242210]

(2) how many responses his Department received to its recent consultation on the Social Care Green Paper. [242211]

Phil Hope: The Department ran a public engagement process on the future of Care and Support this year, from 12 May until 28 November, in order to gather views and comments from stakeholders, service users and members of the public to help inform the Green Paper. The engagement activity included deliberative events with stakeholder organisations and with citizens. People were able to send in their views and comments via a dedicated website, by email or by post. Materials were also available for stakeholder organisations to run discussions within their own networks. We are in the process of analysing the responses and plan to publish a report of the responses received alongside the Green Paper.

Over 1,000 people attended the deliberative events run by the Department. We also received over 1,600 responses via the website, by email and by letter. Some of these responses summarise discussions with groups of people, or the results of surveys or petitions carried out by organisations as part of the engagement. Some of those responding via website did so more than once.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Borders: Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of establishing a permanent security presence on duty at all times at all ports of entry to the UK. [241280]

Mr. Coaker: No such estimate is available.

Confiscation Orders: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value of property and possessions seized by the Assets Recovery Agency from residents of Northern Ireland convicted of drug dealing offences was in each of the last five years. [241433]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) did not carry out any criminal confiscation investigations in Northern Ireland linked to drug dealing offences. ARA's civil recovery investigations were focused against property suspected of being the proceeds of crime and did not require a direct link to individuals with criminal convictions. ARA did not hold information on whether individuals connected to such property were convicted of, or alleged to be involved in, drug dealing.

Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance individuals subject to control orders receive with their living costs. [240997]

Mr. Coaker: Individuals subject to control orders are not routinely prevented from taking employment or from receiving state benefits, including where appropriate job seekers allowance, housing benefit and asylum support. However if the terms of a control order prevent an individual gaining employment or render him ineligible for other benefits the Home Office will make necessary subsistence payments.

If an individual subject to a control order is required to move from their current residence, the Home Office may provide suitable alternative accommodation and pay council tax and utility costs.

In some circumstances the Home Office may pay the line rental for a telephone and/or provide pre-paid telephone cards. This may be appropriate where a controlled person is prohibited by the terms of the control order from using telephones outside his residence and/or using mobile telephones.

All control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and in each case must be necessary and proportionate for purposes connected with preventing or restricting involvement by that individual in terrorism-related activity.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals currently subject to control orders have previous convictions for terrorism-related offences. [241281]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. The last such statement was laid on 15 September 2008; the next statement is due shortly. These statements give as much information as we can provide about individuals subject to control orders given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

Crime: Intellectual Property

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to including intellectual property crime in the National Community Safety Plan for 2008 to 2011; and if she will make a statement. [240576]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Community Safety Plan (NCSP) was revised in December 2007 to communicate how the vision and objectives set out in our national crime strategy ("Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-2011") have been embodied in the current cross-cutting PSA framework. Both documents now give local partners a greater flexibility in setting their crime priorities, in accordance with local needs and in consultation across the local community.

Both the crime strategy and the NCSP cover organised crime, which includes some intellectual property crime. More widely, recent legislation introduced by the Home Office, including new asset recovery powers and the Serious Crime Act 2007, provide important tools in tackling intellectual property crime. The UK Intellectual Property Office has lead responsibility for the Government's national strategy on intellectual property crime and produces regular enforcement reports.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures govern telephone operators listening to silent emergency calls; and for how long operators are advised to listen to such calls. [240871]

Mr. Coaker: Communication providers (CPs), contracted call handling agents and the emergency authorities have responsibilities which are outlined in the code of practice for the Public Emergency Call Service (PECS). PECS is intended to deal with the method of handling '999/112' public emergency telephone calls between the call handling agents (CHAs) and the emergency authorities (EAs) in the United Kingdom (Police, Fire, Ambulance and Coastguard). All CPs have obligations under the Communications Act 2003.

Section 4.6 of the PECS Code of Practice covers 'Calls without service request'. This relates to silent calls. It states that:

> "There are many calls to 999/112 where a caller does not actually request an EA. In the overwhelming majority of cases these are children playing or customer misdials, but there is always a possibility of it being a genuine caller who cannot speak. Very large numbers of accidental 999/112 calls are received from mobile phones.
>
> CHA Emergency Operators (CHA EO) try to obtain a response by asking the normal questions—for example "which service is required", and "if you cannot speak but need help please tap the handset screen." In cases where nothing apart from general noise (no speech) is heard, or where the voice link is terminated during CHA questioning (perhaps with background speech or noise), it is recognised that there is a negligible chance that it is genuine and the CHA EO can end the call.
>
> Where there is no response, the voice channel remains open and background voices are present it is recognised that the CHA cannot decide whether an EA is needed. In this case the call is connected to a police voice response system hosted by the Metropolitan Police Service which asks caller to press '5' twice if help is required. If 55 is pressed then immediate connection with the appropriate police authority is made. For any cases where suspicious noises are heard the CHA can override the above procedures and connect to a police EACR".

While the Home Office has oversight of the police service's handling of 999/112 calls, Other Government Departments are responsible for the 999/112 call handling standards of the other emergency services.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances A2 nationals will be required to possess the new identity card for foreign nationals. [240660]

Meg Hillier: Nationals of Bulgaria and Romania (A2 nationals) are citizens of European Economic Area (EEA) members and not subject to immigration control. Therefore, we cannot require them to apply for an identity card for foreign nationals.

Police: Electric Vehicles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the results of trials of use by police of personal transporters on public highways in Sutton; what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of such transporters to neighbourhood policy; and if she will make a statement. [240391]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police to decide what equipment shall be available to their officers. They will wish to ensure that any particular item is fit for purpose, practical and safe in operation, compliant in itself and in its potential uses with all relevant legislation, and that its purchase and deployment represents a proper and effective use of resources.

Police: Secondment

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are *(a)* seconded to overseas missions, governments or organisations and *(b)* otherwise serving abroad. [241254]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the majority of police forces in England and Wales will be equipped with Taser stun guns; [242560]

(2) what officers are *(a)* currently and *(b)* proposed to be permitted to use Taser stun guns in police forces in England and Wales; [242561]

(3) what the cost is expected to be of supplying Taser stun guns to police forces in England and Wales. [242562]

Mr. Coaker: In 2004, following a trial in five forces, the then Home Secretary agreed that chief officers of all police forces in England and Wales could make Taser available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal option for use in situations where a firearms authority had been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) announced on 19 July 2007 that authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales would be able to use Taser in a wider set of circumstances. These officers are now able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject.

Following the success of a 12 month trial in ten police forces, the Home Secretary agreed on 24 November 2008 to allow Chief Officers of all forces in England and Wales, from 1 December 2008, to extend the use of Taser to specially trained units in accordance with current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy and guidance. This sets out that Taser can only be used by specially trained units where officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s).

The cost of supplying Tasers to all forces in England and Wales is dependent on the operational decisions of Chief Officers on deployment of Taser. The Home Secretary announced on 24 November 2008 that the Home Office would be making available a one-off injection of funding to support the purchase of up to 10,000 Tasers for use by police forces in England and Wales.

Police: Training

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people accepted on the Higher Potential Scheme in each of the last five years were *(a)* women, *(b)* black and minority ethnic and *(c)* disabled. [240345]

Mr. Coaker: The Police High Potential Development Scheme (HPDS) was introduced in 2002. It was revised and relaunched in 2008.

Disability data were not recorded until 2006/07. The following table provides data on the number and proportion of people accepted onto the HPDS in each of the last five years. Information on the first year of the HPDS is also provided.

Breakdown of successful HPDS candidates by sex, ethnicity and disability

	Total	*Male*	*Female*	*NR*[1]	*BME*[2]	*White*	*NR*[1]	*Disability*	*NR*[1]
Original HPDS									
2002-03									
Number	57	48	9	0	0	56	1	—	—
Percentage	—	84.2	15.8	—	—	98.2	1.8	—	—
2003-04									
Number	58	44	14	0	3	55	0	—	—
Percentage	—	75.9	24.1	—	5.2	94.8	—	—	—
2004-05									
Number	30	16	14	0	2	28	0	—	—
Percentage	—	53.3	46.6	—	6.6	93.3	—	—	—
2005-06									
Number	30	15	15	0	2	28	0	—	—
Percentage	—	50.0	50.0	—	6.6	93.3	—	—	—

Breakdown of successful HPDS candidates by sex, ethnicity and disability

	Total	Male	Female	NR[1]	BME[2]	White	NR[1]	Disability	NR[1]
2006-07[3]									
Number	44	27	17	0	1	33	10	1	0
Percentage	—	61.4	38.6	—	2.3	75.0	22.7	2.3	—
Revised HPDS									
2007-08									
Number	84	57	22	5	5	74	5	3	6
Percentage	—	67.9	26.2	6.0	6.0	88.1	6.0	3.6	7.1

[1] NR = data not recorded or listed as "prefer not to say"

[2] BME = Black, Minority, or Ethnic minority background.

Terrorism: Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of each type of terrorist offence in each of the last five years. [240927]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently unable to provide the information requested.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Brussels

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many visits to Brussels were made by staff of her Department in 2007-08; and what the total cost of such visits was. [241259]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1127W.

Charities: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which charities her Department has supplied funding of £100,000 or more in each of the last three years; and how much was given to each charity. [242083]

Mr. Khan: Table A sets out the grants given to voluntary non-profit making organisations concerned with homelessness or matters relating to homelessness under section 180 Housing Act 1996. Table B sets out other grants paid by the Department to non-profit bodies.

This may not be a complete list. A complete list could be made available only at a disproportionate cost.

We are currently taking forward a request from the Office of the Third Sector about spending on their sector by the Department and its agencies for 2006-08 which is due to be completed by the end of December.

Table A

				£000
Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Aspire	230	230	435	895
Broadway	489	530	545	1,564
Business in the Community	400	500	500	1,400
Centre Point	559	497	836	1,892
Citizens Advice	470	733	585	1,788
City Roads (Odyssey)	109	109	—	218
Connection	110	—	—	110
Connection at St. Martins	821	821	840	2,482
Crisis	270	—	155	425
East Thames Group	942	1,259	697	2,898
Emmaus	146	651	1,020	1,817
Equinox	272	272	272	816
Foyer Federation	400	—	—	400
Galleries 2 project	250	—	—	250
Homeless link	1,296	1,153	1,690	4,139
House of St. Barnabas	125	106	—	231
Look Ahead	2,006	4,115	2,110	8,231
M25 Group	200	—	—	200
Mosaic	764	764	785	2,313
Reading YMCA	165	—	—	165
Refuge	165	—	—	165
Resource Information Service	2,925	219	237	3,381
Shelter	2,191	2,090	1,802	6,073
St. Christopher	100	—	—	100
St. Mungo's	2,742	3,698	2,935	9,375
Thames Reach Bondway	1,576	1,465	1,660	4,701
Training for Life	300	759	—	1,059
Women's Aid	310	150	100	560
Byker Bridge Housing Association	—	500	—	500
Change up funding	—	615	—	615
Crime Reduction Initiative	—	120	—	120
Northern Network	—	197	199	396
Off the Street and into Work	—	709	715	1,424
Panahghar	—	110	146	256

Table A

Organisation	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£000 Total
Relate	—	125	125	250
Working Future Project	—	1,259	—	1,259
Chartered Institute of Housing	—	—	500	500
Construction Youth Trust	—	—	135	135
Derbyshire Housing Aid	—	—	114	114
Housing Associations Charitable Trust	—	—	220	220
Cranstoun Drug Services	—	—	120	120
TREES Group	—	—	240	240
SITRA	—	—	238	238
YMCA Birkenhead	—	300	—	300
YMCA England	—	155	382	537
Tyneside Cyrenians	—	—	107	107

Table B

Organisation	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Burnley Pendle and Rossendale CVS	134	—	—	134
Business in the Community	—	—	130	130
Civic Trust	—	706	775	1,481
Community Foundation for Merseyside	148	—	—	148
Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	1,264	—	—	1,264
County Durham Foundation	197	—	—	197
First Step Trust	242	558	600	1,400
Groundwork UK	3,700	5,332	10,296	19,328
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS	114	—	—	114
Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency	165	—	—	165
Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Service	381	—	—	381
Pendle Community Network Ltd	101	—	—	101
Penwith Community Development Trust	130	—	—	130
Scarman Trust	150	—	—	150
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service	165	—	—	165
St. Helens District CVS Ltd	152	—	—	152
Tameside Third Sector Coalition Ltd	102	—	—	102
Voluntary Action	1,460	—	—	1,460
West Cumbria CVS	107	—	—	107
Thames Gateway Groundwork UK	950	—	—	950
Wirral CVS	299	—	—	299

Community Development: English Language

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is, with reference to its policies on community cohesion, on encouraging those who have settled in the UK in the last 30 years to learn English. [242579]

Mr. Khan: The Government believe that the ability to speak and write English is vital to integrating into British society and to improving equality of opportunity. Language skills help people get on in the workplace and make a contribution to their local community. Migrants who have a good level of English are employed at a higher level, are able to work safely and confidently in their jobs, find it easier to integrate into society; and are aware of the unwritten rules of behaviour. We are therefore promoting the learning of English through the immigration and citizenship process and the provision of English language classes.

Government have taken the following steps to encourage immigrants to learn English:

In December 2007, we published Guidance on Translation for local authorities. The guidance spreads existing good practice, which ensures that translation is only provided where it is necessary and acts as a stepping stone to speaking English.

The Home Office Green Paper on citizenship (published 20 February 2008) considers that it is right to allow ESOL further education courses at the 'home rate' in order that migrants can acquire key skills needed for good community cohesion.

Funding changes for ESOL provision were introduced last August to improve accessibility for the most vulnerable learners, with those who can afford to pay for English classes currently contributing up to 37.5 per cent.

In October 2007 DIUS launched a new suite of ESOL for work qualifications. The new qualifications are shorter and more work-focused than traditional ESOL qualifications, giving learners practical English skills in essential workplace matters, such as health and safety and customer service. These provide more flexibility and choice for employers, agencies and learners. Employers should share responsibility for supporting employees with ESOL needs.

The DIUS consultation on ESOL earlier this year set out an approach to ESOL funding centred on integration and community cohesion outcomes, and placing the assessment of need at a local level. DIUS are currently developing more detailed proposals for future ESOL funding on the basis of the consultation response.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241947]

Mr. Khan: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on Communities and Local Government's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49

and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals have worked in her Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242121]

Mr. Khan: 28 individuals have worked in the Department for Communities and Local Government on paid summer placements over the past three years. Individuals on summer placements are a mixture of undergraduates and recent graduates and work in a variety of posts across the Department. They are contracted to work 36 hours per week and are placed on the minimum executive officer salary, currently £24,461, which is paid pro rata for the duration of the placement. Of the 10 individuals who joined the Department in summer 2008 two did not complete their placements.

The Department does not keep a central record of how many individuals have undertaken unpaid work experience as this information is held locally by divisions.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on what contribution she expects to be made to the delivery of the eco-towns programme by the Environmental and Sustainability Standard 2008 issued by the Building Research Establishment. [241977]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have set out the high standards that eco-towns must meet in the draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS), which was published on 4 November 2008.

We are currently consulting on the draft PPS and want to hear views about whether these are the right standards. The BRE's standard is an issue that we would expect might be raised as part of this consultation, and which we would then consider in our analysis of the consultation responses before finalising the PPS.

Elevate East Lancashire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has with regard to future funding of the Elevate East Lancashire housing renewal area; and if she will make a statement. [242526]

Mr. Iain Wright: Future allocations to 2010-11 for housing market renewal areas, including Elevate East Lancashire, were announced in the House on 28 February 2008. These amounts are currently indicative and may change by up to plus or minus 10 per cent. We hope to announce final allocations shortly.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what cost estimate her Department based its plans for the administration of each regional fire control centre between the date to which it became operational and the date on which the last Fire and Rescue Authority is expected to cut over to a regional control centre. [241299]

Mr. Khan: As individual Fire and Rescue Services cut over to the Regional Control Centre they will pay their relative proportion of the total running cost, with the Department financing the remaining share until all FRSs within a region have cut over. It is for the FRAs within a region to collectively agree what their relative proportions will be.

The steady state total running cost estimates for the Regional Control Centres are currently those included in the FiReControl Business Case Part 1: the Regional Cases published in July 2008 and summarised in the following table.

Region	*Forecast RCC running cost (£000 pa)*
EE	7,373
EM	6,262
Lon	10,898
NE	5,405
NW	8,426
SE	8,767
SW	6,992
WM	7,457
YH	7,124
EM	6,262

Copies of the Business Case Part 1 and 2 are available in the House Library or at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/resilienceresponse/firecontrol/businesscase/

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date each fire and rescue authority is expected to cut over to its regional control centre, broken down by *(a)* brigade and *(b)* region; [241300]

(2) what contingency plans she has put in place for fire and rescue services to respond to the potential terrorist threat to the 2012 Olympic Games, in the event that not all fire and rescue authorities cut over to regional control centres by 2012. [241302]

Mr. Khan: On 26 November 2008 I announced a rescheduling of the FiReControl cut over timetable. We have shared an indicative timetable with the Fire and Rescue Services and are validating the revised dates with them directly. The draft timetable, broken down by region and Fire and Rescue Service, is:

Provisional revised FRS cutover timetable for FiReControl (November 2008)

FRS (by Region)	*Provisional revised date*[1]
South West Region	
Somerset	July 2010
Devon	July 2010
Dorset	October 2010
Avon	November 2010
Cornwall	June 2011
Wiltshire	August 2011
Gloucestershire	October 2011
East Midlands Region	
Derbyshire	July 2010
Leicestershire	October 2010
Nottinghamshire	November 2010
Lincolnshire	February 2011
Northamptonshire	February 2011
North East Region	
Tyne and Wear	July 2010
Durham and Darlington	October 2010
Cleveland	November 2010
Northumberland	November 2010
West Midlands Region	
Staffordshire	October 2010
West Midlands FRS	November 2010
Shropshire	February 2011
Warwickshire	June 2011
Hereford and Worcester	June 2011
South East Region	
Hampshire	February 2011
West Sussex	June 2010
Royal Berkshire	August 2011
Oxfordshire	October 2011
Kent	October 2011
East Sussex	December 2011
Buckinghamshire	December 2011
Isle of Wight	February 2012
Surrey	February 2012
North West Region	
Greater Manchester	February 2011
Merseyside	June 2011
Cumbria	August 2011
Cheshire	August 2011
Lancashire	August 2011
Yorkshire and Humberside Region	
West Yorkshire	August 2011
South Yorkshire	October 2011
North Yorkshire	December 2011
Humberside	February 2012
East of England Region	
Cambridgeshire	October 2011
Essex	December 2011
Bedfordshire	December 2011
Suffolk	December 2011
Norfolk	February 2012
Hertfordshire	February 2012
London	
London	February 2011

[1] As with any project of this nature, we will only have certainty about the timing of these later stages of the project once earlier stages have been completed successfully. We will be communicating progress on this directly with our stakeholders.

As a consequence of this rescheduling the London cutover moves forward relative to other regions with the entire network due to be in place by February 2012, under current planning assumptions. We will continue to work closely with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to review preparations.

The Home Office is leading work with other Government Departments, the Police and emergency services to develop the Safety and Security plan for the 2012 Games. The DCLG is working closely with the Fire and Rescue Service and other stakeholders on planning and coordination requirements as part of this process.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable will be for her Department's proposed expenditure analysis review of fire and rescue services. [243024]

Mr. Khan: The Government are currently reviewing the fire and rescue relative needs formula used in the Formula Grant distribution system. Options arising from this review will be consulted upon in summer 2010, with any changes implemented for the next three year settlement (i.e. from 2011-12).

FireBuy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department plans to continue the revenue funding of FireBuy's strategic procurement role; and if she will make a statement; [242388]

(2) if she will review the governance arrangement in FireBuy as part of her response to the outcomes of the consultation on the National Procurement Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [242755]

Mr. Khan: Views on the future funding, governance and delivery of the national procurement function, currently provided by Firebuy Ltd., were sought as part of the consultation on the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service 2008-11. Responses to the consultation are currently being considered and we hope to make an announcement by the end of January.

Homelessness: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in local authorities had been accepted as owed a main homelessness duty between 1997-98 and 2007-08 in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* the Vale of York. [241972]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Districts within North Yorkshire are Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. In addition, information is provided for the unitary authority of York. Information is not collected at constituency level, and the Vale of York constituency lies within Hambleton, Harrogate and York.

Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

A summary table which includes the total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty in each year between 1997-98 and 2007-08, for each local authority is available in the Library. An extract showing data for the local authorities within North Yorkshire is given as follows:

Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Local authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Craven	—	—	—	43	27	—	42	29	23	27	30
Hambleton	26	24	18	50	65	101	103	100	79	76	65
Harrogate	127	155	153	200	225	238	263	313	142	140	135
Richmondshire	39	—	20	45	62	134	113	131	—	76	106
Ryedale	24	31	32	26	38	47	51	64	61	38	36
Scarborough	185	218	185	223	237	234	304	293	208	200	157
Selby	94	77	99	62	95	151	144	—	96	94	76
York	280	—	282	499	418	409	460	424	414	213	258

'—' Denotes data not reported.

Source:

CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the level of new house building in 2009-10 in housing renewal areas; and if she will make a statement. [242723]

Mr. Iain Wright: The projected output for Housing Market Renewal funded new build housing in those areas is approximately 1,500 for 2008-09, the latest year for which estimates are available.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses have been built in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Cambridgeshire and *(d)* Peterborough in each of the last 10 years. [242876]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of annual house building completions in each of the last 10 years for England, the East of England, Cambridgeshire county council and Peterborough.

	England	*East of England*	*Cambridgeshire*	*Peterborough*
1998-99	140,260	18,950	2,260	—
1999-2000	141,800	18,770	2,270	—
2000-01	133,260	16,030	1,970	—
2001-02	129,870	15,620	2,150	—
2002-03	137,740	17,840	2,490	511
2003-04	143,960	18,400	2,610	696
2004-05	155,890	19,890	2,750	824
2005-06	163,400	20,250	2,580	884
2006-07	167,680	22,560	3,200	1,211
2007-08	166,990	22,230	3,210	929

Source: New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Figures for Peterborough are as reported by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC). For 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 Peterborough submitted no P2 returns; no estimates have been presented in these years as presenting NHBC information only would under-report the true level of house building completions in the local authority.

Figures for England, the East of England and Cambridgeshire include estimates for missing LA returns.

Housing: Standards

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy efficiency measures have been installed under the Decent Homes programme in each *(a)* Government office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* constituency in England in each year since the programme's inception. [242513]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department holds figures on capital works to windows (double-glazing), central heating and insulation for all local authority social sector dwellings. This information is collected and published through the annual Local Authority Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) returns. A set of tables containing information for the last seven years (2000-01 to 2006-07) by local authority and region has been placed in the House Libraries. Data are not collected at a constituency level.

Since 2001, many local authorities have chosen to transfer their entire social stock to registered social landlords through the option of large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT). The table reflects the increasing occurrence of these changes over the seven-year period as data are only collected from authorities which own their own stock or have set up an arm's length management organisation to manage their stock.

The Tenant Services Authority, the regulator of all housing associations in England, does not hold any information on energy efficiency measures put in place under the Decent Homes programme by housing associations.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she expects rate demands to be issued to port businesses for rates due from 2005; what the Valuation Office Agency's latest assessment of rateable values of port businesses is; when she expects rebates to be paid to port owners for rates overpaid since 2005; and what estimate she has made of the overall value of such rebates. [240897]

John Healey: The responsibility for rates bills, issuing demands and rebates lies with the billing authority concerned.

The following table shows the changes to rateable value in ports that the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I submitted to the Treasury Committee on 5 November 2008. It is the most up-to-date table currently available.

We cannot estimate the value of rebates as we do not know how much transitional relief each organisation might have received on their rates bills following the 2005 revaluation. Rebates depend upon the amount originally liable, the amount paid after transitional relief, and the amount now liable (with any transitional relief due on that sum).

Table submitted to the Treasury Select Committee on 5 November 2008

			Pre Review (1 April 2005)		
Port	*Group*	*Port RV (URT) (£)*	*Non Port RV (£)*	*Total RV (£)*	*Number of hereditaments*
Barrow	North West	580,000	641,005	1,221,005	56
Blyth	Newcastle	130,000	329,102	459,102	39
Boston	East Midlands	125,000	233,755	358,755	7
Bristol	Western	5,250,000	15,791,740	21,041,740	109
Dover	South East	2,670,000	1,314,515	3,984,515	53
Falmouth	South West	130,000	569,375	699,375	21
Felixstowe	East Anglia	14,187,000	3,804,585	17,991,585	164
Fleetwood	North West	310,000	324,080	634,080	40
Folkestone	South East	110,000	23,675	133,675	6
Garston	Liverpool	90,000	163,000	253,000	12
Goole	Sheffield	940,000	77,891	1,017,891	6
Great Yarmouth	East Anglia	400,000	345,485	745,485	28
Grimsby	Sheffield	1,350,000	3,884,531	5,234,531	256
Harwich Dock	East Anglia	125,000	0	125,000	1
Harwich International	East Anglia	4,140,000	1,052,150	5,192,150	20
Heysham	North West	1,050,000	6,400	1,056,400	2
Hull	Sheffield	9,000,000	2,944,075	11,944,075	75
Humber Sea Terminal	Sheffield	—	—	—	—
Immingham	Sheffield	17,930,000	2,653,050	20,583,050	40
Ipswich	East Anglia	580,000	1,207,640	1,787,640	64
King's Lynn	East Anglia	185,000	575,750	760,750	15
Liverpool	Liverpool	16,500,000	3,697,650	20,197,650	43
Lowestoft	East Anglia	150,000	853,250	1,003,250	30
Manchester Ship Canal	Liverpool	1,400,000	0	1,400,000	1
Newhaven	South East	75,000	0	75,000	1
Plymouth Cattedown	South West	91,000	184,000	275,000	2
Plymouth Millbay	South West	150,000	—	—	—
Poole	South West	425,000	—	—	—
Port of London	East Anglia	200,000	0	200,000	1
Portsmouth	Wessex	5,400,000	1,828,965	7,228,965	60
Ramsgate	South East	97,500	—	—	—
SCT	Wessex	9,650,000	0	9,650,000	1
Seaham	Newcastle	200,000	122,500	322,500	3
Sharpness	Western	170,000	0	170,000	1
Sheerness	South East	9,070,000	1,397,690	10,467,690	44
Shoreham	South East	100,000	888,975	988,975	17
Southampton	Wessex	9,400,000	11,865,270	21,265,270	113
Sunderland	Newcastle	95,000	1,093,650	1,188,650	15
TCS	East Anglia	3,400,000	0	3,400,000	1
Teesport	Newcastle	5,500,000	3,259,050	8,759,050	57
Teigrfmouth	South West	550,000	0	550,000	1
Thamesport	South East	2,475,000	393,500	2,868,500	5

Table submitted to the Treasury Select Committee on 5 November 2008

		Pre Review (1 April 2005)			
Port	*Group*	*Port RV (URT) (£)*	*Non Port RV (£)*	*Total RV (£)*	*Number of hereditaments*
Tilbury	East Anglia	2,725,000	5,149,825	7,874,825	95
Tyne	Newcastle	900,000	3,031,300	3,931,300	49
Workington	North West	95,000	169,355	264,355	4
Summary for England		128,100,500	69,876,784	197,304,784	1,558
Change in England		—	—	—	—
Barry	South Wales	135,000	1,597,015	1,732,015	92
Cardiff	South Wales	325,000	1,527,850	1,852,850	34
Fishguard	South Wales	1,600,000	72,900	1,672,900	9
Holyhead	North Wales	4,000,000	45,115	4,045,115	16
Milford Dock Company	South Wales	115,000	440,510	555,510	61
Milford Haven Port Authority	South Wales	530,000	—	—	—
Mostyn	North Wales	87,500	437,500	525,000	3
Newport	South Wales	1,850,000	1,449,775	3,299,775	25
Port Talbot	South Wales	150,000	16,543,350	16,693,350	23
Swansea	South Wales	310,000	258,575	568,575	14
Summary for Wales		9,102,500	22,372,590	30,945,090	277
Totals (excl. Milford Haven, Ramsgate, Poole and Plymouth Millbay)		136,000,500	92,249,374	228,249,874	1,835
Change England plus Wales		2005	2006	2007	—

		Post Review (1 April 2005)				Cumulative Change	
Port	*Group*	*Port RV (URT) (£)*	*Non Port RV (£)*	*Total RV (£)*	*Number of hereditaments*	*RV (+/-)(£)*	*Number of hereditaments (+/-)*
Barrow	North West	575,000	643,555	1,218,555	57	-2,450	1
Blyth	Newcastle	100,000	386,062	486,062	52	26,960	13
Boston	East Midlands	125,000	333,625	458,625	20	99,870	13
Bristol	Western	2,635,000	15,816,760	18,451,760	114	-2,589,980	5
Dover	South East	2,670,000	2,104,316	4,774,316	118	789,801	65
Falmouth	South West	130,000	586,825	716,825	22	17,450	1
Felixstowe	East Anglia	14,187,000	4,077,885	18,264,885	172	273,300	8
Fleetwood	North West	245,000	325,680	570,680	41	-63,400	1
Folkestone	South East	25,000	111,625	136,625	11	2,950	5
Garston	Liverpool	82,500	978,050	1,060,550	20	807,550	8
Goole	Sheffield	205,000	2,960,095	3,165,095	32	2,147,204	26
Great Yarmouth	East Anglia	400,000	425,985	825,985	32	80,500	4
Grimsby	Sheffield	500,000	6,064,881	6,564,881	271	1,330,350	15
Harwich Dock	East Anglia	150,000	4,425	154,425	3	29,425	2
Harwich International	East Anglia	2,125,000	2,317,975	4,442,975	24	-749,175	4
Heysham	North West	1,050,000	687,340	1,737,340	13	680,[illegible]40	11
Hull	Sheffield	3,100,000	14,264,685	17,364,685	114	5,420,610	39
Humber Sea Terminal	Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immingham	Sheffield	11,000,000	11,534,115	22,534,115	75	1,951,065	35
Ipswich	East Anglia	512,500	1,743,980	2,256,480	74	468,840	10
King's Lynn	East Anglia	175,000	686,000	861,000	24	100,250	9
Liverpool	Liverpool	6,800,000	16,969,760	23,769,760	127	3,572,110	84
Lowestoft	East Anglia	150,000	926,510	1,076,510	36	73,260	6

		Post Review (1 April 2005)				*Cumulative Change*	
Port	*Group*	*Port RV (URT) (£)*	*Non Port RV (£)*	*Total RV (£)*	*Number of hereditaments*	*RV (+/-)(£)*	*Number of hereditaments (+/-)*
Manchester Ship Canal	Liverpool	1,400,000	0	1,400,000	1	0	0
Newhaven	South East	75,000	0	75,000	1	0	0
Plymouth Cattedown	South West	91,000	184,000	275,000	2	0	0
Plymouth Millbay	South West	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poole	South West	—	—	—	—	—	—
Port of London	East Anglia	200,000	0	200,000	1	0	0
Portsmouth	Wessex	5,400,000	1,839,575	7,239,575	65	10,610	5
Ramsgate	South East	—	—	—	—	—	—
SCT	Wessex	9,500,000	69,700	9,569,700	10	-80,300	9
Seaham	Newcastle	165,000	132,819	297,819	10	-24,681	7
Sharpness	Western	170,000	109,750	279,750	5	109,750	4
Sheerness	South East	2,125,000	4,431,570	6,556,570	98	-3,911,120	54
Shoreham	South East	100,000	931,725	1,031,725	21	42,750	4
Southampton	Wessex	7,500,000	13,723,675	21,223,675	134	-41,595	21
Sunderland	Newcastle	95,000	1,165,150	1,260,150	30	71,500	15
TCS	East Anglia	3,400,000	35,300	3,435,300	4	35,300	3
Teesport	Newcastle	1,000,000	3,595,785	4,595,785	72	-4,163,265	15
Teignmouth	South West	490,000	153,000	643,000	2	93,000	1
Thamesport	South East	2,240,000	648,475	2,888,475	17	19,975	12
Tilbury	East Anglia	2,100,000	10,416,975	12,516,975	131	4,642,150	36
Tyne	Newcastle	616,500	3,375,840	3,992,340	63	61,040	14
Workington	North West	65,000	173,805	238,805	8	-25,550	4
Summary for England		83,674,500	124,937,278	208,611,778	2,127	11,306,994	569
Change in England		-44,426,000	55,060,494	—	569	—	—
Barry	South Wales	122,500	1,715,415	1,837,915	97	105,900	5
Cardiff	South Wales	300,000	2,261,950	2,561,950	64	-709,100	60
Fishguard	South Wales	1,000,000	94,900	1,094,900	12	-578,000	3
Holyhead	North Wales	4,000,000	146,585	4,146,585	27	101,470	11
Milford Dock Company	South Wales	115,000	473,135	588,135	65	32,625	4
Milford Haven Port Authority	South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mostyn	North Wales	87,500	442,050	529,550	4	4,550	1
Newport	South Wales	1,750,000	1,593,090	3,343,090	37	43,315	12
Port Talbot	South Wales	150,000	16,602,400	16,752,400	29	59,050	6
Swansea	South Wales	310,000	802,675	1,112,675	23	544,100	9
Summary for Wales		7,835,000	24,132,200	31,967,200	358	1,022,110	111
Totals (excl. Milford Haven, Ramsgate, Poole and Plymouth Millbay)		91,509,500	149,069,478	240,578,978	2,485	12,329,104	680
Change England plus Wales		-44,491,000	56,820,104	5.40% increase	36.70% increase	—	—

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from *(a)* developers, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the Environment Agency on the operation of Planning Policy Statement 25. [241505]

Mr. Iain Wright: No recent representations from these parties about the operation of Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) have been received by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

The Government continue to work closely with local authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to ensure that the policy in PPS25 is properly implemented and delivered on the ground, including holding conferences, presentations and workshops aimed at a range of audiences.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses she has received to the latest consultation on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy in respect of *(a)* the whole document, *(b)* HMA 7, area of search 7D/E/F and *(c)* HMA 7, area of search 7B. [241380]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 62W. Officials at the Government office for the south-west are currently assessing the 35,000 responses received and, at this stage, it is not possible to say how many responses are concerned with specific proposals of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been repossessed in each of the housing renewal areas in each month since 1 April 2007; and if she will make a statement. [242385]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However, information from both is available only for the United Kingdom as a whole and is available only quarterly.

The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions although information for the United Kingdom as a whole is published by the Council of Mortgage lenders and the Financial Services Authority.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders data are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area and *(d)* Cheadle constituency in (i) 2007 and (ii) to date in 2008. [242539]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However information from both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions although information for the United Kingdom as a whole is published by the Council of Mortgage lenders and the Financial Services Authority.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders data are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/filegrab/3AP4.xls?ref=2753.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from US authorities on the proposed changes to air passenger duty; what the content of each such representation was; what response his Department made in each case; and if he will make a statement. [242596]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor announced at the 2008 pre-Budget report that air passenger duty would be reformed from a two-distance band regime to a four-distance band regime. The Chancellor has not received any representations from the US authorities on these changes.

The US Government responded to the Government's consultation on proposals for a per plane tax. The summary of consultation responses was published alongside the pre-Budget report.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241962]

Angela Eagle: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on HM Treasury's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government departments who use the Government secure intranet.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he *(a)* last met the President of the European Commission and *(b)* spoke to the President of the European Commission; and whether he discussed Britain's prospective membership of the euro on either occasion. [241495]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on preparations for the possibility of joining the European single currency since 1997. [242771]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury does not hold separate information on the cost of preparations for the possibility of joining the European single currency.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of the Equitable Life Assurance Society from 1988 to the end of November 2001; and if he will establish a Commission as recommended by the Ombudsman in her report. [242413]

Angela Eagle: The Government have been giving very careful consideration to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report. The Government expect to be in a position to respond to the report in an oral statement to the House during the week commencing 12 January.

Government Procurement Card

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bodies store the data for transactions made through the Government Procurement Card. [241752]

Angela Eagle: The Card Issuing banks are the main bodies that store data for transactions made through the Government Procurement Card (GPC) service.

Insolvency

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1900W, on insolvency (1) how much was claimed by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* bankruptcies and *(b)* individual voluntary arrangement cases in which it was a creditor, in each of the last four years; and what the expected amounts are for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [242527]

(2) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1899-1900W, on insolvency, how much was claimed by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* company administration and *(b)* company receivership cases in which it was a creditor, in each of the last four years; and what the expected amounts are for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [242528]

(3) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1900W, on insolvency, in how many cases of *(a)* bankruptcy and *(b)* individual voluntary arrangements, where HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was a creditor, HMRC's claim was of an amount (i) up to £5,000, (ii) between £5,001 and £10,000, (iii) between £10,001 and £25,000, (iv) between £25,001 and £50,000, (v) between £50,001 and £75,000, (vi) between £75,001 and £100,000, (vii) between £100,001 and £250,000, (viii) between £250,001 and £500,000, (ix) between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and (x) over £1,000,000 in each of the last four years; and how many such cases are expected to fall into each category in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; [242529]

(4) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1899-1900W, on insolvency, in how many cases of *(a)* company administration and *(b)* company receivership, where HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was a creditor, HMRC's claim was of an amount (i) up to £5,000, (ii) between £5,001 and £10,000, (iii) between £10,001 and £25,000, (iv) between £25,001 and £50,000, (v) between £50,001 and £75,000, (vi) between £75,001 and £100,000, (vii) between £100,001 and £250,000, (viii) between £250,001 and £500,000, (ix) between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and (x) over £1,000,000 in each of the last four years; and how many such cases are expected to fall into each category in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [242530]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis was for the statement in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report that 70 per cent. of all empty properties would be covered by the temporary increase in the threshold for empty property relief. [241811]

Angela Eagle: Communities and Local Government publishes details of revenue received through business rates by region and according to value bands.

The data are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2008/lgfs18/LGFS18-2-3a.xls

Pre-Budget Review

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what appraisals were made of *(a)* the sustainability impact and *(b)* the carbon and climate change impact of the ; and if he will (i) publish on the Treasury website and (b) place in the Library copies of such appraisals. [241925]

Angela Eagle: Table 7.3 of the 2008 pre-Budget report sets out the environmental impact of measures. This includes an estimate of carbon dioxide emissions savings where these are quantifiable. For specific measures, the Government also uses the impact assessment process, in line with guidance from the Better Regulation Executive.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Table B17 of the Pre-Budget Report 2008, Cm 7484, which departments will have their *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital departmental expenditure limits increased in the current financial year; and what each increase will be, expressed in near-cash terms. [241814]

Yvette Cooper: The details of Departments' budgets changes that will take place in the current financial year will be set out to Parliament in Spring Supplementary Estimates. Spring Supplementary Estimates include changes to near cash budgets.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans there are to pay bonuses to staff at the Tax Credit Office in 2008-09. [242189]

Ian Pearson: Details on how HMRC rewards performance can be found in the Departmental Report and Departmental Accounts available at

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the basis is for the assertion by HM Revenue and Customs that it will be able to meet its obligation to provide a full Welsh language service for its clients in North West Wales after the closure of its Bangor office. [242532]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) remains committed to providing services to its Welsh-speaking customers, in accordance with its Welsh language scheme.

The final decisions on its future office structure which HMRC published on 4 December included relocating most of the back office operations currently carried out from its office at Bangor to Colwyn Bay. The enquiry centre services currently offered in Bangor will continue to be provided either in the same building or nearby, so there will be minimal impact on customers requiring a face-to-face service. By using an appointment system, HMRC will continue to ensure that provision for Welsh speakers is made in advance of meetings.

Other business units that will be relocating from Bangor are aware of the importance of the Welsh language service and have arrangements in place to ensure continuation of this provision across North Wales.

Tax Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what percentage of tax credit claimants have been underpaid more than *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times and *(d)* four times since their claim began; [241943]

(2) how many and what percentage of tax credit claimants have been overpaid more than *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times and *(d)* four times since their claim began. [241968]

Angela Eagle: Overpayments fell very significantly in 2006-07, to £1 billion, as a direct result of the successful implementation of a package of measures to improve tax credits announced at PBR 2005. They are now less than half the level of the first year of the system and through the Tax Credits Transformation programme we are continuing to help people to reduce the likelihood of getting an over or under-payment on their award.

Information on the number of tax credit awards with more than one, two and three underpayments or overpayments, between 2003-04 and 2006-07, is provided in the following table.

Thousand/Percentage

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*	*Number of awards overpaid*
(a) More than once[1]	555	1,811
(b) More than twice[2]	82	461
(c) More than three times	6	63
Proportion of all tax credit awards in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, which were under/overpaid more than once (Percentage)	6	21

[1] Number is cumulative and therefore includes (b) and (c). [2] Number is cumulative and therefore includes (c).

Information on the number of families incurring underpayments or overpayments in 2007-08 is not yet available.

VAT: Financial Services

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of December 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W, on VAT: financial services, (1) what estimate he has made of the financial benefit the financial services sector will derive from the reduction in the standard rate of VAT; [242667]

(2) how much the financial services sector contributed to the Exchequer in *(a)* recoverable and *(b)* irrecoverable VAT in the last year for which figures are available. [242668]

Ian Pearson: Information on VAT receipts collected by trade sectors is published in the VAT Factsheet, available from:

www.uktradeinfo.com

In total the financial services sector (financial intermediation, insurance, pension fund and auxiliary activities) collected around £1 billion in net VAT receipts in 2005, the last year for which figures are published. This figure relates to all business activities of the relevant VAT registrations and not just their finance related activities, and does not include import VAT paid by these registrations.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on irrecoverable VAT. The sector's irrecoverable VAT and robust estimates of the financial benefit from the reduction in the standard rate of VAT are therefore not available.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1517W, on Afghanistan: military aircraft, for what reasons he made the statement 'that I cannot understand why you are telling people otherwise', in the text of an Answer to a Parliamentary Question. [242637]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The hon. Member and I have discussed this issue and we will continue to do so.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas mail packages sent to armed forces personnel have been returned to the original sender in the last three months. [242445]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: These data are not recorded.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the defence budget was spent on responding to *(a)* natural disasters, *(b)* network failures or disruption and *(c)* criminal activity in each year since 1997. [242880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence budget does not include provision for responding to natural disasters, network failures or disruption, or criminal activity which are the lead responsibility of other Government Departments. Where the Ministry of Defence is called upon to assist, we would only do so free of charge where there were an imminent threat to human life, or seek repayment in the case of less severe threats. We do not keep a central record of all the costs reclaimed by Defence.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer given to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1170W, on armoured vehicles (1) for how long it has been his Department's policy to refit unarmoured Jackals with armour; [242842]

(2) whether his Department plans to buy more unarmoured Jackals; what the cost of the improvement programme is; and where the vehicles have been operating. [242843]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department has not procured any unarmoured Jackals, nor does it intend to in the future. The Jackal configuration has always included the armour and, as the armour fit is a part of the vehicle base standard, there is no additional cost for fitting it. 13 vehicles were, however, released early to the training fleet before the armour was fitted to facilitate training. These vehicles have not been used on operations and are in service only within the UK-based training fleet. 12 of the 13 vehicles are currently undergoing a programme to fit the armour retrospectively at no cost to the Department.

Biological Weapons

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safeguards are in place for which his Department is responsible to prevent the acquisition of dangerous pathogens from UK civilian laboratories by individuals intending to construct biological weapons. [241776]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK legislation governing the security of pathogens and toxins in civilian laboratories is contained in part 7 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. Schedule 5 of this Act specifically identifies the pathogens which could potentially be utilised as biological weapons and requires the registration of laboratories with the UK holding this material for research purposes. The Act is implemented through the Home Office's National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO): details can be found at:

www.nactso.gov/pathogen.php

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) site at Porton Down undertakes research to provide safe and effective countermeasures for the UK and its armed forces against biological warfare agents, and therefore holds pathogenic agents. The effectively guarded laboratories at Dstl Porton Down have been inspected by NaCTSO and Dstl is fully compliant with the guidance as published by the Home Office.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safeguards are in place for which his Department is responsible to prevent the acquisition of scientific and technical knowledge from UK sources by individuals intending to construct *(a)* biological weapons, *(b)* chemical weapons and *(c)* nuclear or radiological weapons for the purpose of a terrorist attack. [241777]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) undertake research to provide safe and effective countermeasures for the UK and its armed forces against chemical, biological and radiological warfare agents.

Most of this work is not published and remains protected information on secure systems in secure sites. However, where possible, Dstl and AWE publish some results of their research programme in peer reviewed scientific literature but only after a very detailed internal clearance procedure to ensure that no information is released that will aid terrorism.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240987]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008-11 is available on the website at:

www.mod.pdf

The scheme incorporates the disability equality duty together with other diversity strands covering race, gender, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The conclusions can be found in the annual progress report for 2007-08, which is due to be published shortly. A copy will be placed on the website and in the Library of the House.

The armed forces are exempt from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weapons system the Joint Strike Fighter will carry. [242822]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames).

Navy: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent guidance has been issued to the Royal Navy on engaging pirates. [242820]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 54W.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are undertaking anti-piracy patrols; and on how many occasions in the last 10 years the Royal Navy has engaged suspected pirates. [242821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have two Royal Navy vessels currently on counter-piracy operations. We do not hold records of the number of occasions the RN have engaged with suspected pirates over the last 10 years. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 670W, on the number of such incidents in the last three months.

Rifles

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to bring legacy L115 A1 and A2 sniper rifles up to the A3 standard; and if he will make a statement. [242422]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to convert legacy L115 Al sniper rifles to A3 standard; the L115 A2 is planned to be upgraded.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Attorney General for Northern Ireland: Public Appointments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what process governs the appointment of the Attorney General Northern Ireland. [241021]

Paul Goggins: The responsibilities of the Attorney-General for Northern Ireland (AGNI) currently attach *ex officio* to the Attorney-General for England and Wales. After devolution of criminal justice functions, the arrangements for appointment of the AGNI will be as set out in Part 2 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, which provides that the appointment is a matter for the First Minister and deputy First Minister. Section 22(6) requires that a person appointed as AGNI must be a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland or a solicitor of at least 10 years' standing.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240979]

Mr. Woodward: In Northern Ireland, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 ensures that equality issues, including disability, are integral to the whole range of public policy decision making. Public authorities such as the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are required to submit equality schemes to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006) introduced the 'disability duties' in Northern Ireland to reflect changes to disability legislation in Great Britain. In addition to section 75 the Northern Ireland Office is therefore required, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to:

promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and

encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Under Section 49B of the DDA 1995, the NIO submitted a three year disability action plan to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland which sets out how it proposes to fulfil the disability duties in relation to its functions.

The NIO reports annually to the Equality Commission on its equality scheme and this includes a report on progress against its disability action plan. The annual report from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 has been published and can be found at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/section_75_northern_ireland_act_1998__annual_progress_report_1_april_2007_-_31_march_2008.pdf

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242109]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) participates in Cabinet Office summer placement schemes aimed at attracting talented undergraduates/graduates with either disabilities or from ethnic minorities to the Civil Service Fast Stream. The Department provides salaried placements of six to eight weeks duration working in policy areas or on projects.

The NIO has also provided one-year salaried placements for IT sandwich students to enable them to meet the industry relevant skills element of their IT degree courses.

While in the Department the students provide IT helpdesk support to staff. In addition, the NIO facilitates ad hoc requests for unpaid work experience of up to one week's duration for students in secondary level education. This allows students to experience work in the civil service and involves mainly shadowing existing staff. All the students facilitated have been in full-time education at the time, each working 36 to 37 hours per week, and all completed their set time period. The following table provides details of the placements facilitated in the last three years:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Cabinet Office placement scheme			
Number of placements	1	2	—
Average weekly salary (£)	380	354	—
IT sandwich student scheme			
Number of placements	2	—	—
Average weekly salary (£)	250	—	—
Work experience			
Number of placements	3	1	6
Average weekly salary (£)	—	—	—

Parades Commission

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many visits have been undertaken by members of the Parades Commission to venues outside Northern Ireland in the last five years; which venues were visited; on what dates; and what the cost was of each visit. [241812]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland, which operates independently of Government, and I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the Secretary of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland directly.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which members of the Parades Commission have undertaken visits on official business outside Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and which venues have been visited. [241813]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland, which operates independently of Government, and I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the Secretary of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland directly.

Prostitution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of prostitute-soliciting in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years; and how many of these were (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals. [240565]

Paul Goggins: In 2005 and 2006 (the latest years for which data are available), there were no prosecutions or convictions for prostitute-soliciting in Northern Ireland.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of brothel-keeping in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years; and how many of these were (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals. [240566]

Paul Goggins: In 2005, three persons were prosecuted and convicted for brothel-keeping in Northern Ireland, all of whom had addresses in the UK; in 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), there were no prosecutions or convictions for this offence.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

There have been a number of recent raids on brothels in Northern Ireland, specifically when PSNI have been concerned that victims of human trafficking might be involved.

PRIME MINISTER

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he *(a)* last met the President of the European Commission and *(b)* spoke to the President of the European Commission; and whether he discussed Britain's prospective membership of the euro on either occasion. [241494]

(2) whether it is the Government's long-term policy objective to take the UK into the euro zone; [242302]

(3) when the Cabinet last discussed the possibility of the UK's membership of the euro. [242303]

The Prime Minister: I last met the President of the European Commission on Monday 8 December. I discussed a wide range of issues with the President. I refer the right hon. Member to the press conference I held with President Barroso and President Sarkozy on Monday 8 December. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17733.

In addition, I refer the right hon. Member to the press briefing given by my Spokesman on 9 December. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17744.

A copy of both transcripts has been placed in the Library of the House.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House what conclusions her Office has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240994]

Chris Bryant: Progress on equality issues in the Leader's Office is reported in the Cabinet Office's Single Equality Scheme. Copies, which run to 115 pages, are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at:

> http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/corp/assets/publications/corporate/equality/equality_scheme.doc.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* her Office and *(b)* computers in (i) her private office, (ii) the offices of its communications officials and (iii) the offices of her special advisers. [241967]

Chris Bryant: In accordance with standard good information security practice and to help defend against electronic attack, my office does not publish internal IP addresses for its corporate IT systems. When accessing external services such as internet websites, the IP addresses of all the computers on my office's internal IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what records her Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* the amount of money spent on alcohol for official hospitality. [240670]

Chris Bryant: Expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol is recorded on the Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House if she will list the hon. Members who used the communications allowance to fund the publication of a Parliamentary Report in the 2007-08 Session. [241798]

Chris Bryant: In 2007-08 financial year, 601 hon. Members claimed for costs against the Communications Allowance and the average amount spent was £7,870.

The Department of Resources, who are responsible for administering the Communications Allowance, does not record information on the House financial system that distinguishes between monies spent on parliamentary reports and other eligible, non-capital, items.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has held discussions on possible regulation of the liquefied petroleum gas market. [241602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has not held any discussions on possible regulation of the liquefied petroleum gas market. However, the Competition Commission (CC) has recently conducted an investigation into suppliers of bulk LPG for domestic use and the relationships they have with their customers. It published its report on 29 June 2006. Subsequently, the CC made the first of two orders to remedy, mitigate and prevent detrimental effects on customers so far as they have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition specified in the report. From 13 April 2009 the first order will apply to all suppliers of bulk LPG for domestic use. A second order which will apply to all suppliers of bulk LPG for domestic use on metered estates is currently the subject of consultation and is expected to be published in early 2009.

Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to determine whether the proposed Kingsnorth power station would deliver an absolute increase in energy efficiency; what assessment he has made of the energy efficiency of *(a)* Kingsnorth and *(b)* existing plant; and what estimate he has made of the change in levels of carbon dioxide emissions which would result from the (i) construction and (ii) operation of the power station. [241683]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made no such assessments or estimates.

E.ON estimate that the proposed Kingsnorth super-critical boilers could attain an efficiency of around 47 per cent. against 37 per cent. efficiency from the existing Kingsnorth sub-critical boilers.

E.ON also estimate that the proposed Kingsnorth station could emit 8.6 MtCO_2 per year, based on maximum assumptions of 0.717 MtCO_2 per TWh of electricity and an estimated output of 12 TWH per year (cf 9.85 TWh achieved by the existing station in 2006). But actual output will depend on many factors, including the relative price of fossil fuels, the price of carbon, and whether, and if so when, any carbon abatement technology is fitted.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240978]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is covered by Disability Equality Scheme introduced by the Ministry of Justice. This scheme provides plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor, and report on progress. Section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice states that public authorities must, on an annual basis, publish a report containing a summary of:

> The steps it has taken to fulfil its disability equality duty (the action plan); what has the authority done over the past year to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and is it meeting its targets

The results of the information gathering which it has carried out—what evidence has been obtained and what does it indicate

What the authority has done with the information gathered—what actions will be taken as a result of what the information indicates

The scheme, associated action plans and first yearly review is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/equality-schemes-2008.htm

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241960]

Ann McKechin: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241124]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spend on ministerial hospitality in the four years in question was as follows:

	£
2004-05	18,420
2005-06	17,748
2006-07	23,411
2007-08	19,191

The events continue to be popular with MPs of all parties with relevant Scottish constituencies taking the opportunity to engage with important stakeholders and groups in Scotland.

Whisky

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment the Government has made of the value of the Scotch whisky industry to the Scottish economy. [240738]

Ann McKechin: Scotch Whisky exports are worth £2.8 billion to the Scottish, and UK, economy each year. In addition, the Scotch Whisky industry generates £800 million of salaries in Scotland and £700 million is spent on local goods and services in Scotland.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Development Aid: Disabled

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make extra funding available to assist people with disabilities in the developing world. [242035]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises disability as a key development issue and for this reason we have already been looking for opportunities to increase our support to disability issues.

DFID recently committed £868,000 to the new Disability Rights Fund which is a unique and innovative grant-making mechanism designed to provide funding directly to disabled people's organisations (DPOs) in the global south and eastern Europe/former Soviet Union. DFID is one of five international donors currently contributing to the fund which has just made its first round of grants to 33 DPOs across Africa and Asia.

In recognition of the fact that more data on disability are urgently needed DFID recently committed £2.2 million to a five-year cross-cutting disability research programme to begin in January 2009. This will increase the amount of robust data available which more clearly demonstrate the links between disability and poverty in developing countries. It will work closely with research currently being carried out by the Southern Africa Federation of Disabled People's Research Project (£2.2 million) which has been running since 2007. This five-year project which has been designed and run by disabled people in the region, has already started to produce evidence of the kinds of barriers disabled people face when trying to access basic services like health and education.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Protection

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many home visits a child considered to be at *(a)* low risk and *(b)* high risk received from an allocated health visitor in the first two years following assessment in each London borough between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [241911]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240477]

Ed Balls: DCSF is unable to identify separately the costs of alcohol from those of official hospitality as such expenditure is claimed and recorded under the general heading above.

My Department's policy on hospitality, including that on alcohol, is in accordance with the principles of Treasury guidance in "Managing Public Money" and the handbook on "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money".

(a) Hospitality expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment is usually restricted to where senior managers (Deputy Director or above) are acting as host, and expenditure must be approved in advance by a Director or Executive Board member and recorded using the above category.

(b) The following guidance is issued by my Department to staff on the provision of alcohol.

There is a general principle that alcohol should not be provided at public expense and never when only civil servants are present.

It is accepted that there are some events whose primary purpose is for non-civil servants, where not providing alcohol could be seen as unusual or cause embarrassment. It is done with due regard to value for money, any provision being modest and proportionate, and requires a senior manager's approval.

Education and Skills Act 2008

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how he plans to monitor compliance by schools with the provision of section 81 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. [242007]

Beverley Hughes: The amendments made by Section 81 to schools' duties in respect of providing a programme of careers education and providing access to guidance and reference materials on 16-18 education and training and careers opportunities, will be underpinned by statutory guidance. This will include "Principles" of impartial careers education. We will provide support for schools to help them to assess their performance against the principles including on getting feedback from young people and their parents on the quality of the information and advice that they have received.

The quality and accessibility of the impartiality of the information and advice provided by schools will be considered as part of the inspection process. The school Self Evaluation Form asks schools to evaluate "the quality and accessibility of impartial information and guidance to learners in choosing courses and programmes and, where applicable, career progression".

Inspectors will consider responses in evaluating how well learners are guided and supported as part of assessing the overall quality of provision.

Local authorities have strategic responsibilities for IAG provision through their responsibility for convening 14-19 partnerships and will also have a strong interest in ensuring that schools adhere to the principles.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children obtained five good GCSEs including English and mathematics, excluding equivalents, in each year since 1997. [240620]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the table below:

	Number of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs only at grades A-C including English and maths*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs only at grades A*-C including English and maths*
2008	295,170	45.2
2007	286,616	43.7
2006	288,761	44.5
2005	279,200	43.9
2004	271,723	42.2
2003	258,273	41.5
2002	253,774	41.8
2001	244,645	40.5
2000	231,657	39.9
1999	224,089	38.6
1998	212,305	36.9
1997	209,075	35.6

Note: The 2008 data are provisional and subject to change.

Please note that the data for 2005-07 are based on pupils at the end of KS4 and years 2003 to 1997 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in (i) pupil referral units, (ii) alternative provision and (iii) special schools obtained at least five A* to C including English and mathematics at GCSE in 2008; [240621]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in (i) pupil referral units, (ii) alternative provision and (iii) special schools obtained at least five A* to C GCSEs in 2008; [240622]

(3) how many and what percentage of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in (i) pupil referral units, (ii) alternative provision and (iii) special schools obtained at least one C grade or above at GCSE in 2008. [240623]

Jim Knight: Information on the attainment of pupils in alternative provision is not available.

Provisional information on pupils in pupil referral units and special schools can be found in table 5 of the following Statistical First Release:

DCSF: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Provisional)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000815/index.shtml

Schools get the opportunity to amend their results during the checking exercise before the revised data are published in January 2009.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in schools *(a)* with fewer than 10 per cent., *(b)* with more than 20 per cent. and *(c)* with more than 50 per cent. free school meals pupils in the last three years.[1] [240610]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 3MC.]*

School FSM band	*Percentage of pupils achieving five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics* 2006	2007
Less than 10 per cent. eligible	57	58
20 per cent. or more eligible	19	20
50 per cent. or more eligible	14	13

2008 data will only be available as of 11 December 2008.

Please note that prior to 2006 the five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics indicator was not available at school level.

National Curriculum Tests

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 14 year olds *(a)* not in care and *(b)* in care achieved level five in English, mathematics and science at key stage 3 in each year since 1997. [241728]

Jim Knight: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on attainment in schools can be found in table B which shows the number eligible to sit KS3 tests and the number and percentage who have achieved at least level 5 in English, mathematics and science.

Information on the attainment of looked after children was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002-04 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DH/VOL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Pre-school Education: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female teachers there are in (i) Sure Start centres and (ii) nursery schools. [240595]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff working with children and young people. The data are not available in the form requested. The following table shows, for each type of setting, what proportions of paid staff were male and female. In 2007, 2 per cent. of paid staff were male and 98 per cent. were female in each of the following types of setting: full day care children's centres; nursery schools; primary schools with nursery and reception classes. In primary schools with reception but no nursery classes 1 per cent. of paid staff were male and 99 per cent. were female.

Male and female staff by type of setting, 2007

	Proportion of paid male staff	*Percentage* Proportion of paid female staff
Full day care	2	98
Full day care in children's centres	2	98
Sessional	1	99
After school clubs	8	92
Holiday clubs	16	84
Childminders	1	99
Nursery schools	2	98
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	2	98
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	1	99

Source: DCSF Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey, 2007.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is taking the lead in a national campaign to highlight the children's workforce. One of the main aims of the campaign is to encourage men into the sector. Also, recruitment activity around Early Years Professional Status includes focus on engaging with and generating interest among men, particularly fathers.

Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on upgrading or rebuilding school buildings in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley district, *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency and *(d)* England since 1997. [242415]

Jim Knight: The Department is responsible for schools in England, and allocates resources on a local authority basis. Accordingly, information is kept on a local authority rather than on a constituency basis.

During the period 1996-97 to 2007-08, total capital allocations for school building upgrade and rebuilding were in *(a)* the North East £1,807 million, *(b)* Middlesbrough £77 million, *(c)* Redcar and Cleveland £128 million, *(d)* England £31,446 million.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the written Ministerial Statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS, on secondary school improvement, what schools are classified as coasting in each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [241850]

Jim Knight: This is a local authority led initiative and it will be down to each authority to identify the schools that will most benefit from the support and challenge set out in the strategy document.

The document, Gaining Ground, can be found at

www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk

Science: Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department plans to take to improve teaching provision for science in schools. [242373]

Jim Knight: The Government announced in January 2008 a £140 million strategy to educate the next generation of scientists and mathematicians and help recruit and train more science and mathematics teachers. Much work is underway to improve the number of specialist teachers, this includes:

increasing the value of the teacher training bursary for science graduates to £9,000 in September 2006, and the 'Golden Hello' for new science teachers rose to £5,000 for trainees who trained on PGCE and equivalent courses from September 2005;

continuing to recruit science graduates into teaching with incentives for providers of £2,000 per recruit to attract more physics and chemistry teachers;

offering courses to enhance physics and chemistry subject skills for those entering teaching who do not have a recent degree, or who have a related degree, in the subject;

piloting accredited courses to give existing science teachers without a physics or chemistry specialism the deep subject knowledge and pedagogy they need to teach these subjects effectively, those who gain accreditation will receive a £5,000 incentive. These courses are to be rolled out nationally from July 2009;

setting up a mentoring scheme to support newly qualified science teachers which is to be piloted from July 2009;

introducing a new cadre of science specialist higher level teaching assistants to support teachers;

funding the Student Associate Scheme in which science undergraduates spend time in school supporting teachers; and

establishing the Transition to Teaching programme to get employers to encourage talented staff to retrain as secondary school teachers in physics, chemistry, ICT and mathematics.

The Government are also committed to improving the quality of teaching and learning. The Secondary National Strategy provides continuing professional development for science teachers focused on raising pupils' attainment. In partnership with the Wellcome Trust we have set up a national network of Science Learning Centres to provide professional development for science teachers, technicians and other science educators. The training focuses on encouraging innovative and exciting teaching practice that will enthuse and inspire young people. Together with the Wellcome Trust and industry, we are funding 'Project Enthuse' to enable science teachers to experience high quality professional development in contemporary science at the National Science Learning centre over the next five years and DCSF is also funding Impact Awards available to teachers attending the regional Science Learning Centres.

Sixth Form Education

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to implement changes to the presumption in favour of school sixth forms, as set out in paragraph 4.21 of the Raising Expectations White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [242942]

Jim Knight: We are beginning a six-week consultation on changes to the Decision Makers' guidance that covers sixth form presumptions on 11 December and, subject to comments received by the deadline of 22 January 2009, we expect to be able to implement the changes in February 2009.

We remain committed to the principle of expanding successful and popular schools and colleges, including enabling them to establish new 16-19 provision. Collaboration between schools, and between schools and colleges, will be essential to ensure that we have a high quality offer for all young people and to support the successful delivery of diplomas and of the wider 14-19 reforms.

Social Services: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities' children's services were placed in special measures in each of the last five years. [240756]

Beverley Hughes: 'Special measures' is not a term that the Department uses with reference to its engagement with local authority children's services. Ministers may take action to engage with local authorities where there is evidence of weakness in performance, for example as the result of 'inadequate' Ofsted judgment(s) in annual performance assessments (APAs) and joint area reviews (JARs). Such intervention can take various forms, from offering external improvement support, enhanced monitoring and challenge through to issuing an improvement notice (IN) in more serious cases. In the most serious cases, the Secretary of State may decide to make use of his statutory powers of direction and intervention.

In the last five years, Ministers have made use of their statutory powers of direction in relation to North East Lincolnshire (2005), Stoke-on-Trent (2007) and Haringey (2008), and have issued improvement notices to Salford, Leicester City and Surrey. We have also intervened without the use of statutory powers or improvement notices in various local authorities, deploying a range of improvement support options, including external consultancy support teams, independently-chaired improvement boards and enhanced monitoring arrangements. These authorities were:

2004-05

Swindon;
Barnsley;
Cumbria.

2005-06

Sandwell;
Staffordshire.

2006-07

Bristol;
Isle of Wight;
Peterborough;
Plymouth;
Devon;
Herefordshire;
Medway.

2007-08

Dorset;
Hertfordshire;
Thurrock.

2008-09

Oxfordshire;
Lancashire.

Social Services: Training

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated for the training of *(a)* youth workers and *(b)* social service practitioners to enable early identification of young people at risk in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [240492]

Beverley Hughes: Since April 2008 DCSF has allocated a Children's Social Care Workforce Grant of £18.156 million for each of the three years (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) to the Area Based Grant[1] for the children's social care work force (including social workers), to support work force training and development.

The Children's Social Care Workforce Grant was formerly allocated by the Department of Health (DH) in two portions (along with the Adults Social Care Workforce Grant) as part of the Social Services National Training Strategy and Human Resources Development Strategy grants to support social care work force development in the adult and children's sector. Funding from DH in past years for these grants totalled:

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
National Training Strategy Grant	24.884	30.979	94.859	107.859	107.859
Human Resources Development Strategy Grant	9.525	23.9	62.75	49.75	49.75

In 2008-09 DCSF also allocated £12.455 million to the Children's Workforce Development Council to improve the capacity, skills and supply of social workers in children's services, working closely with partners such as the General Social Care Council and those supporting improvements in adult social work, including Skills for Care.

The Government do not collect data on the training of youth workers. From 2006-07 to 2008-09 the Government have invested £15 million to support local authorities in implementing reforms to targeted youth support services so that interventions are made earlier for vulnerable young people to help prevent poor outcomes.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 14-year-olds he expects will be enrolled on a diploma course in 2013; and if he will make a statement. [241618]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As with all qualifications, we cannot predict the number of young people who will enrol each year. During spring 2013, when young people start to make their choices, we will have a much clearer idea, and in October 2013 we will have accurate figures.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils of each ethnicity (i) in care and (ii) not in care are studying on one or more diploma courses. [241720]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In summer 2009 we will have information about the proportions of pupils entered for Diplomas, broken down by gender, ethnicity and whether in care for those pupils sitting examinations in 2009.

Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to help rural schools collaborate in offering diploma courses. [242003]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We know that rural areas face a particular set of challenges and so we have made £23 million available over the next two years to the 40 most rural areas in the country to help drive local solutions and innovation.

This includes:

Funding the post of travel and access coordinator in each of the 40 most rural areas;

Providing £1 million of capital to the 20 most rural areas to help them develop innovative solutions; and

Providing a small amount of funding to support a rural pairing scheme to help the 40 most rural areas share practice and explore solutions together.

We have also appointed a rural adviser to support areas in their delivery of the 14-19 reform programmes.

Specialist Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special schools there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* the last year for which data are available. [240637]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table. Figures include maintained and non-maintained special schools.

January	*Number of special schools in England*
1997	1,221
2001	1,175
2008	1,065

Source:
School Census

Teachers: Sick Leave

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of sick leave were taken by teachers in maintained schools in the last year, broken down by type of illness. [240607]

Jim Knight: Figures for the number of full-time and part-time teacher sickness absences in local authority maintained schools in England, calendar years 2000 to 2007, are published in table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2008 (Revised) at the following web link:

[1] The ABG is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government; it is a non-ringfenced grant which gives local authorities the flexibility to determine locally how best to spend the resource in order to deliver local, regional and national priorities in their areas.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR262008 tables.xls

Information on the type of illness is not collected centrally.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240786]

Mr. Simon: Non-consolidated bonuses paid in the Department were paid to 51 per cent. of staff in 2007-08. Bonuses are judged on delivery of agreed objectives and behaviours.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242625]

Mr. Simon: The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills last used a train in the course of his official duties on Friday 28 November 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since it was established received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [242253]

Mr. Simon: In the Department, there have been seven early releases in 2007-08, at a total cost of £512,000 and two in 2008-09 at a total cost of £90,000. There are currently no early releases planned for 2009-10.

Information on individual voluntary exit scheme payments to staff for each year is not available in the form requested and could only be obtain at disproportionate cost.

There have been no compulsory releases.

Train to Gain Programme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in England participated in the Train to Gain programme in 2006-07. [242852]

Mr. Simon: There were 238,700 people who started a Train to Gain programme in 2006-07.

Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006-07 academic year. The figure above therefore covers Train to Gain starts over a 16 month period.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Vale of York completed a Train to Gain programme in 2006-07. [242853]

Mr. Simon: Overall, there were 122,000 Train to Gain achievements in 2006-07. There were 120 Train to Gain achievements in 2006-07 in the Vale of York Constituency.

Notes:

1. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006-07 academic year. The figures above therefore cover Train to Gain achievements over a 16 month period.

2. Constituency is based on learner's home postcode.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business Grants

6. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of the streamlining of grants for businesses announced in the pre-Budget report on those eligible to receive such grants; and if he will make a statement. [242336]

Mr. McFadden: "Solutions for Business"—the simplification programme of business support announced prior to PBR—streamlines the large number of schemes into 30. These will be in place by 2009 and will help companies on issues such as business growth, getting started, finance, skills and the environment.

Bank Lending

7. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of bank lending practices. [242337]

9. **Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on small businesses of bank lending practices. [242339]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) earlier today.

Credit Availability

8. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the availability of credit to businesses. [242338]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs to the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) earlier today.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects on businesses of the availability of credit to them. [242342]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) earlier today.

15. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the availability of credit to businesses. [242345]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Pelling) earlier today.

Transition Loan Fund

10. **Mr. George Howarth:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria apply to the making of grants from the transition loan fund through regional development agencies. [242340]

Mr. McFadden: The Transition Funds build on the successful example of Advantage West Midlands' Transition Bridge Fund which helped businesses in the aftermath of the collapse of MG Rover.

The key principle is that loans will be made on commercial terms, to viable businesses with good management.

Loans from the fund will normally only be made where the existing financiers (including bankers) are, at the time of application to the fund, willing to maintain some borrowing facilities on agreed terms.

Loans from the fund may not be used to pay down existing borrowings. Applicants, through their business plans, should be able to demonstrate a positive impact on jobs, either through job creation or job retention.

Balance of Payments

11. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the reasons for the UK's balance of payments deficit. [242341]

Mr. Thomas: The UK's current account deficit was equivalent to 3 per cent. of GDP in the second quarter of 2008. As the pre-budget report made clear we expect the current account deficit to narrow in 2009 due to changes in relative levels of demand in the UK and overseas and changes in the value of sterling.

Post Office

13. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the consultation programme carried out by the Post Office as part of the Network Change programme. [242343]

Mr. McFadden: The Network Change Programme is drawing to a close. Around 15 per cent. of proposals were changed during the pre-consultation phase and 87 closures and four outreach proposals were withdrawn during the public consultation period.

Utility Companies

14. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on businesses of utility companies' charges. [242344]

Mr. Thomas: The Government make various assessments of cost pressures on industry, including utility costs, and maintains dialogue with industry on such issues through a number of channels, notably the Small Business Forum.

Manufacturing Sector

16. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from representatives of the manufacturing sector on the global financial situation. [242347]

Ian Pearson: We continue to receive representations and views from all across the manufacturing sector employers, trade unions and others on a regular basis to discuss the global financial situation, as well as other issues that are of immediate concern.

Assistance for Businesses

18. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations his Department has received on provision of assistance for businesses; and if he will make a statement. [242349]

Ian Pearson: The Department has regular dialogue with business on a wide range of issues, including the provision of assistance.

Internet Governance Forum

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to promote engagement in the work of the Internet Governance Forum. [242333]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are committed to ensuring the success of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The UK Government are a leading donor supporting the IGF Secretariat this year, and will continue to seek to ensure that the benefits of this multi-stakeholder dialogue are maximised for both the UK and the international community, much of whose success is due to the efforts of my right hon. Friend.

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department is providing to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in 2008-09. [242348]

Ian Pearson: The Department's Action for Business Programme provides up to £7 billion of support to businesses in the UK.

This year, over £140 million has been channelled through Business Link to offer direct support services to over 850,000 businesses, £360 million of lending has taken place through the Small Firms Loan Guarantee and £50 million has been committed through Enterprise Capital Funds.

Foreign Companies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK-based industry in foreign ownership in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2003 in each of the 30 largest industrial sectors. [242093]

Mr. Thomas: The following information is available:

Percentage of output (gross value added (GVA)) generated by UK and foreign-owned companies: 2003-05

		Percentage
Sector	*Foreign owned*	*UK owned*
Manufacturing		
2003 (UK)	31	69
2004 (GB)	32	68
2005 (GB)	34	66
Services[1]		
2003 (UK)	16	84
2004 (GB)	17	83
2005 (GB)	18	82
Other[1]		
2003 (UK)	22	78
2004 (GB)	24	76
2005 (GB)	27	73
Total[1]		
2003 (UK)	20	80
2004 (GB)	21	79
2005 (GB)	22	78

[1] The Annual Business Inquiry does not cover all parts of the Services and Other categories.

Source:

National Statistics (derived from Annual Business Inquiry regional data, published in "Regional Competitiveness and State of the Regions, 2008" (BERR)

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's officials last discussed the UK's prospective membership of the euro with the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [242306]

David Miliband: I will write to the right hon. Member shortly.

Gulf of Aden: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Gulf of Aden: piracy, if he will provide a breakdown of the UK's *(a)* current and *(b)* planned contribution to the (i) EU and (ii) NATO and Combined Force 150 counter-piracy missions in the Horn of Africa. [240675]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

In response to the increase in piracy in the Gulf of Aden, we are providing the operation commander and the operation headquarters to the European Security and Defence Policy operation. HMS Northumberland will be deployed for the first period of the operation.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 has been providing deterrence in support of the World Food Programme in the Gulf of Aden since October. HMS Cumberland was attached to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 and is now leaving the region as the NATO mission comes to an end. NATO is considering further options for countering piracy in the region.

The UK will continue to provide a frigate to the Coalition Task Force 150 which contributes to a broad range of maritime security operations in the region including counter piracy. Our contribution to this Task Force will remain unaffected by contributions to NATO and/or EU counter-piracy operations.

Israel: Entry Clearances

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been refused entry into Israel at Ben Gurion Airport in each of the last three years; what records his Department holds on the reasons for refusal in each case; and if he will make a statement. [240703]

Bill Rammell: We do not hold records on the number of British nationals who have been refused entry at Ben Gurion Airport.

Israel: EU External Relations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent vote by the European Parliament postponing a decision on involving Israel in the European Union's Community Programmes; and if he will make a statement. [242524]

Bill Rammell: The European Parliament's programme is a matter for that body. The UK supports the European Council decisions on developing the EU's relationship with Israel alongside work to advance peace in the middle east. Officials from the UK Representation to the EU will continue to monitor and engage with the European Parliament on this and other issues of interest.

Jeremy Hoyland

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the British Ambassador to Indonesia about the ongoing search for a missing British citizen, Jeremy Hoyland; and if he will make a statement; [240554]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Indonesian Foreign Minister on the ongoing search for a missing British citizen, Jeremy Hoyland; and if he will make a statement; [240555]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to locate a missing British citizen, Jeremy Hoyland; and if he will make a statement; [240556]

(4) if he will make a statement about the ongoing search for a missing British citizen, Jeremy Hoyland. [240557]

Bill Rammell: Jeremy Hoyland went missing at sea on 24 October in Indonesian waters. The search and rescue operation is the responsibility of the Indonesian authorities, namely the Indonesian police, the Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency and the Indonesian Navy. However, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth office have been closely involved in the case from the first day of Mr. Hoyland's disappearance, liaising with the Indonesian authorities and providing consular assistance to the family, in Indonesia and on their return to the United Kingdom.

To support the honorary consul and the British consulate in Bali, the deputy head of mission and consul from the our embassy in Jakarta travelled to Bali to meet Mr. Hoyland's family on their arrival, and to assist them in meeting senior representatives of the search teams involved.

Our ambassador to Indonesia has taken action to ensure that Mr. Hoyland's disappearance is well publicised around the area where he went missing, including recording an appeal message to be distributed to around 50 local radio stations in the area. Consular officials in London have provided updates to the family, and acted on requests for information by approaching the appropriate authorities in Indonesia.

I met Mr. Hoyland's family on 8 December to discuss the case, and identify further action to be taken.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the search for Mr. Hoyland with our ambassador to Indonesia, nor with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on terrorist attacks in Israel since October 2008; what discussions he has had with the government of Israel on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [241166]

Bill Rammell: In October and November 2008, 168 rockets and 157 mortars were fired on Israel from Gaza (figures from the Israeli Foreign Ministry). As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, including during his visit to the region, such attacks on Israel must stop and it is in both Hamas and Israel's interests to reinforce the ceasefire which began in June. It is also imperative that Israeli operations and restrictions do not cause suffering to the civilian population of Gaza.

Rashid Rauf

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the accuracy of reports that Mr. Rashid Rauf was killed in the US air strike of 21 November 2008 in North Waziristan, Pakistan. [241016]

Bill Rammell: We do not have confirmation of the death of Rashid Rauf. Following a request from his family, we have requested official confirmation from the Government of Pakistan.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to *(a)* the Government of Pakistan and *(b)* the Government of the USA on the reported death of Mr. Rashid Rauf on 21 November 2008. [241017]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the US Administration on the reported killing of Rashid Rauf in Pakistan. [242028]

Bill Rammell: We do not have confirmation of the death of Rashid Rauf. Following a request from his family, we have requested official confirmation from the Government of Pakistan.

No specific representation has been made to the US Administration.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff at BBC Monitoring Caversham *(a)* there are in total and *(b)* monitor Russian-language broadcasts. [240659]

Caroline Flint: At BBC Monitoring Caversham there are 301 staff in total and 14 staff monitoring Russian language broadcasts.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the audience for the BBC Russian internet service is based in *(a)* Russia, *(b)* other former Soviet Union countries, *(c)* the UK and (d) other countries. [240662]

Caroline Flint: The geographic distribution of users of the website of the BBC Russian Service varies from month to month.

Of those BBCRussian.com users in November 2008 whose locations were known, the breakdown is as follows:

(a) Russia 53 per cent.

(b) Other Former Soviet Union countries 17 per cent.

(c) UK 3 per cent.

(d) Other countries 27 per cent.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the US Administration and *(b)* other European countries on offering joint Russian language radio services for international audiences. [240663]

Caroline Flint: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor the BBC World Service have had such discussions with other broadcasters in recent years. The BBC previously sought partnerships with Russian operators for FFM broadcasting but these presently are not possible. The BBC World Service has concentrated its efforts on improving BBC Russia through the recent changes implemented.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the location is of the transmitters for the BBC Russian Service. [240664]

Caroline Flint: BBC World Service's transmitters for the Russian Service are located in the UK and Europe.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment of the state of UK-Russia relations is. [240783]

Caroline Flint: Russia is important to achieving UK objectives in many areas, including regional security, energy and climate change. The UK has serious concerns over Russian policy and actions in Georgia, and is supporting multilateral efforts to broker solutions.

Significant differences remain unresolved in bilateral relations, including over the Litvinenko case and the British Council's work in Russia, on which we continue to pursue satisfactory outcomes.

The Government engage with Russia in pursuit of UK interests, including through high level dialogue. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met President Medvedev in the margins of the G20 summit in Washington to discuss the international financial crisis. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Foreign Minister Lavrov most recently on 4 December in the margins of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe ministerial in Helsinki.

Although the strong trade and investment relationship between Russia and the UK has been hit by the financial crisis, both the Lord Mayor of London and my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lord Mandelson, have led business delegations to Russia this autumn to promote the interests of British business and encourage co-operation between governments on trade and investment. The Government have supported both the From Russia exhibition in London and the Turner exhibition in Moscow.

Syria: Terrorism

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to make representations to the Syrian government in respect of honours they have bestowed on convicted Islamist terrorist Sumar Kuntar; and if he will make a statement. [242525]

Bill Rammell: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

World War II: Military Intelligence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will release into the public domain the 1,949 files his Department holds relating to Englandspiel, with specific reference to files detailing the responses given to the Dutch governments, redacting names as necessary. [242634]

Bill Rammell: The vast majority of files relating to Englandspiel are already in the public domain at The National Archives. There are a small number of papers that are currently retained on national security grounds. These papers are re-reviewed on a regular basis.

JUSTICE

Archives: Publicity

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking in conjunction with the National Archives to improve *(a)* standards in and *(b)* awareness of the archive sector, including local and private archives. [240273]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives has a key role within Government to support all parts of the archives sector in the United Kingdom by providing both strategic and practical advice on all aspects of records and archives management.

It is taking forward a range of activities to help raise standards including:

Facilitating an annual self-assessment exercise for local authority funded archives to help raise the standards of the services they provide to the public;

Issuing a range of written guidance, available on The National Archives' website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) on all matters relating to the creation, management, care, and use of records and archives and all strategic issues arising from this;

Offering bespoke strategic and operational advice to archive service on many aspects of archives administration and information management;

Administering £335,000 worth of grants to help archives tackle their backlogs in cataloguing records.

The National Archives is also taking steps to raise awareness of the archives sector. It is working closely, for example, with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to fund the Archives Awareness Campaign, run by The National Council on Archives, which aims to improve awareness of archives among the general public and to improve engagement with younger people and black and ethnic minority communities.

To ensure its long-term sustainability, they are also working together to enable the sector to raise its capability, channel its resources more effectively and share best practice.

Corporate Management Board

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board has claimed in expenses since his Department was established; what the purpose was of each such claim; and how much has been paid by his Department in response to such claims. [240298]

Mr. Straw: All employees of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) are subject to its policy on travel and subsistence and are expected to comply with the requirements of that policy. The MOJ does not keep details of individual claims made by current or past members of the corporate management board (CMB). It would be disproportionately expensive to ascertain this information.

Non-executive members of CMB are not employees of the MOJ. In addition to a daily fee, the Department will pay all reasonable expenses properly and necessarily incurred in respect of their appointment to CMB, in accordance with those expenses and limits paid by the Department to civil servants.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the role is of each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board; and what tasks and responsibilities have been allocated to each member. [240299]

Mr. Straw: The role of the members of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) corporate management board (CMB) and their functional descriptions are published on the MOJ website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-organisational-structure-functional-descriptions.pdf

The information can also be found in the MOJ annual report which is also available on the MOJ website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-2008.htm

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board has undertaken work on his Department's behalf since the Department was established; and which of these duties have been performed at places other than on the Government or Parliamentary estates. [240421]

Mr. Straw: The executive members of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) corporate management board (CMB) are full-time employees of the MOJ.

The non-executive members of CMB are not employees of the Department. The non-executive members of CMB are contracted individually for a period of time. They are appointed to provide external advice and expertise, to attend meetings and to perform associated activities.

It would incur a disproportionate cost to ascertain which of the board member duties have been performed at places other than on the Government or parliamentary estates.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what terms and conditions have been attached to the appointment of each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board. [240422]

Mr. Straw: All executive members of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) corporate management board (CMB) are employed by the Ministry and are subject the Ministry's terms and conditions of employment. There are no separate terms or conditions associated with their appointment as board members.

The non-executive members of CMB are not employees of the Ministry of Justice. There is no contract of employment. They are appointed to attend meetings of the CMB and associated commitments, and to provide external advice and expertise.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* bonuses and other benefits each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board has received since the establishment of the Department; and what estimate he has made of further such remuneration and benefit to be received in the financial year 2008-09. [240423]

Mr. Straw: All executive members of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Corporate Management Board (CMB) are members of the senior civil service whose pay is governed by a centrally determined pay system for which Cabinet Office is responsible. The Ministry of Justice, along with all other Departments, applies the pay system to its senior civil service members in accordance with guidance provided by Cabinet Office following the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Future remuneration will depend on the recommendations of this independent review body.

The gross salary and bonuses received during the financial year 2007-08 for each member of the MoJ Corporate Management Board can be found in the Ministry's audited accounts. In accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual issued by HM Treasury, the Ministry of Justice discloses the salary details of each board member, including any allowance, in bands of £5,000. Presentation in this form is required in order to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. These accounts were laid before Parliament in July.

The current non-executive members of CMB were appointed in April 2008. The fee paid to non-executive board members will be disclosed in the annual departmental accounts, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual issued by HM Treasury.

The current daily fee for each non-executive member of CMB is £500 per day. The fee is reviewed annually in line with the Retail Price Index.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training and guidance has been provided for each member of his Department's Corporate Management Board on *(a)* mediation and *(b)* the Government's alternative dispute resolution pledge; and (i) when and (ii) by whom such training and guidance was provided. [240424]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has a number of trained workplace mediators who deal with issues involving disputes between two or more employees. Training and guidance on alternative dispute resolution is not provided to members of the Corporate Management Board, though training can be provided for members of staff if requested.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures govern the appointment of a lead negotiator by his Department's Corporate Management Board in cases of mediation; and whether such negotiators are given authority to settle matters referred for mediation in circumstances where the appropriate remedy is determined to be *(a)* the provision of apologies reflecting upon the reputation of the Department, *(b)* financial and *(c)* another remedy. [240425]

Mr. Straw: Cases are considered on an individual basis.

Departmental Mediation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many mediations his Department has participated in since its establishment; [240426]

(2) who was appointed as lead negotiator in each of the mediations in which his Department has participated since the establishment of his Department; [240427]

(3) how much his Department has spent on alternative dispute resolution including mediation on *(a)* training provided by external providers including the Treasury Solicitor's Department, *(b)* subscriptions to related instruction and *(c)* facilitation fees; and to whom such payments have been made since the establishment of his Department; [240453]

(4) what training and guidance on alternative dispute resolution including mediation has been *(a)* published on his Department's intranet and *(b)* otherwise provided to those of his Department's staff who are involved in resolving disputes in which his Department is a party. [240454]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is involved in number of different forms of mediation. These may be internal resolution of conflict for members of staff or alternatives to court activity. The Ministry of Justice does not maintain a record of the number of cases where mediation has been used. However, we are aware of at least 10 mediations conducted since May 2007 when the Ministry of Justice was established.

The Ministry of Justice does not maintain a record of facilitation fees. Members of the Department's legal team attend such training courses as are necessary, although we have no specific record of the expenditure on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) training. Members of the Department's legal team may also attend the ADR awareness sessions run by the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

The Ministry of Justice also has a number of trained workplace mediators who deal with issues involving disputes between employees. Training and guidance on alternative dispute resolution is not published on the Ministry of Justice's intranet.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240792]

Mr. Wills: Bonus payments within the Ministry of Justice may be made either as "year-end" bonuses, which are paid to high performing staff to reflect their individual contribution throughout the previous performance year, or as "in year" bonuses, paid to recognise exceptional achievements during the performance year.

For the financial year 2007-08, a total of 2,535 "year-end" bonuses and 5,327 "in year" bonuses were paid. These payments to staff amounted to a total of £5,748,037.

This figure includes bonuses paid to senior civil servants, totalling £1,717,322, in the 2007-08 financial year. SCS bonuses were allocated in accordance with guidelines issued by the Cabinet Office following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations as recognition of achievement. The remaining amount of £4,030,715 was allocated to staff below SCS level.

The payment of bonuses, which are non-consolidated and non-pensionable, to high performing individuals, is a part of the Department's reward strategy. Such payments are a cost-effective means of encouraging and rewarding high performance. An additional amount of 0.02 per cent. of paybill is set aside for more general reward and recognition purposes.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [240311]

Mr. Wills: Information as at November 2008 is as follows:

	Number of staff in scheme	*Proportion of staff in each scheme (percentage*
(a) Classic	39,404	48.93
(b) and (d) Classic Plus + Premium Civil Service Pension Scheme	29,606	36.76
(c) Nuvos	7,126	8.84

The figures provided do not include employees who have elected to join a Partnership pension scheme or have opted out of the pension. Therefore the figures provided do not total 100 per cent. of employees currently in the Department.

It is not possible to differentiate between those employees in the Premium pension scheme and those in the Classic + pension scheme. They are not recorded separately on the pension records held by the Department's payroll provider and would be available only at disproportionate cost, if at all.

Disability Equality Duty

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240980]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people and welcomes its responsibilities under the Disability Equality Duty.

The Department published its corporate Disability Equality Scheme in April 2008 and has recently published its Secretary of State Report on Disability Equality. Key priorities identified by our stakeholders with disabilities are access to justice; offender management and participation in public life.

The MOJ will be publishing its first Disability Equality Scheme (DES) annual review in summer 2009 in which related actions on these priority areas will be reported on.

Employment Tribunals Service: Compensation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation was awarded by employment tribunals in each year since 2003-04, broken down by jurisdiction. [240419]

Bridget Prentice: The employment tribunals only retain details of awards for the following jurisdictions; unfair dismissal and discrimination on the grounds of sex, race and disability. Compensatory awards in cases of discrimination on the grounds of age, religious belief and sexual orientation will be provided from 2007-08 onwards. Details of the awards for the period of 2003-04 to 2006-07 are listed as follows. We are not yet in a position to release figures for the year 2007-08.

Unfair dismissal

	Average award (£)	Total number of awards	Total compensation (£)
2003-04	7,275	2,843	20,682,825
2004-05	7,303	2,383	17,403,049
2005-06	8,679	2,410	20,916,390
2006-07	7,974	3,309	26,385,966

Race Discrimination

	Average award (£)	Total number of awards	Total compensation (£)
2003-04	26,660	80	2,132,800
2004-05	19,114	59	1,127,726
2005-06	30,361	73	2,216,353
2006-07	14,049	95	1,334,655

Sex Discrimination

	Average award (£)	Total number of awards	Total compensation (£)
2003-04	12,971	221	2,866,591
2004-05	14,158	170	2,406,868
2005-06	10,807	168	1,815,576
2006-07	10,052	194	1,950,088

Disability Discrimination

	Average award (£)	Total number of awards	Total compensation (£)
2003-04	16,214	77	1,248,478
2004-05	17,736	88	1,560,768
2005-06	19,360	76	1,471,360
2006-07	15,059	116	1,746,844

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unpaid employment tribunal monetary awards were registered in county courts in each year since 2003-04. [240420]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of tribunal awards registered in the county courts of England and Wales for the purposes of enforcement in each year since 2003-04. In 2007-08, these registrations account for approximately 4 per cent. of total tribunal disposals. Figures relating solely to unpaid employment tribunal monetary awards are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Number of tribunal awards issued in the county courts of England and Wales since 2003-04

	Number
2003-04	28,479
2004-05	26,879
2005-06	25,764
2006-07	22,987
2007-08[1]	20,911

[1] Figures for the latest year are provisional

Government Departments: Information

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve the capacity of Government Departments and agencies to manage knowledge and information in the light of guidance recently issued in his Department's document "Information Matters". [240271]

Mr. Wills: "Information Matters: building government's capability in managing knowledge and information" was published on 18 November. An implementation plan for this strategy will be published in spring 2009. The strategy will help Departments manage their information more effectively. It will also develop knowledge and information management professionals within government to ensure that capability across the civil service is raised to deliver more effective services to citizens.

High Visibility Payback Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the high visibility payback scheme in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [240739]

Mr. Hanson: Probation areas have been required to promote the unpaid work community sentence to the public as community payback since 2005. This has been done in a number of ways, including the use of signs on work sites and vehicles. Probation areas have also done imaginative work to generate local publicity in order to increase public awareness of the work done by offenders to improve local communities.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced that offenders sentenced to unpaid work will be required to wear distinctive high visibility clothing from 1 December. Further work is being undertaken to determine the level of public awareness community payback.

Intellectual Property: Training

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the merits of training in intellectual property law for judges and magistrates and their advisers; and what guidance has been issued to the Judicial Studies Board pursuant to recommendation 44 of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property. [241330]

Mr. Straw: Responsibility for judicial training lies with the Lord Chief Justice as head of the judiciary and is exercised through the Judicial Studies Board (JSB), an independent body chaired by Lord Justice Maurice Kay. It would not therefore be appropriate for me to issue guidance on judicial training to the JSB.

The JSB's Magisterial Committee considered this recommendation. Because of the infrequency and relatively straightforward nature of such cases heard in the magistrates courts, and the fact that magistrates have qualified legal advisers to advise them on the principles involved, it was not thought appropriate to train all magistrates and legal advisers.

A paper entitled "The law relating to criminal offences involving infringement of intellectual property rights" was commissioned from a senior QC and is available to judicial office holders and legal advisers on the JSB training website.

Intellectual Property is a specialist area dealt with by a small cadre of specialist judges. It has not been the practice of the JSB to focus on teaching specialist substantive law, and the primary responsibility remains with judges (as with professional lawyers) for updating themselves. The relevant jurisdictional law still provides the background for all JSB training and any important changes will be highlighted at relevant training events.

Legal Services Ombudsman

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the legal services ombudsman has dealt with in each of the last five years; how many of these have found in favour of the individual making the complaint; and if he will make a statement. [240530]

Bridget Prentice: In 2004, 1,327 reports were issued—502 were in favour of the complainant.

In 2005, 1,928 reports were issued—634 were in favour of the complainant.

In 2006, 1,866 reports were issued—578 were in favour of the complainant.

In 2007, 1,777 reports were issued—555 were in favour of the complainant.

In 2008 (up to 30 November 2008), 1,820 reports were issued of which 512 were in favour of the complainant.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Service has cost in each year since its inception. [240699]

Mr. Hanson: The creation of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was announced in January 2004. The Resource and Capital expenditure outturn (DEL and AME) in each year are given in the following table.

Figures for 2004-05 to 2006-07 are taken from the Ministry of Justice Departmental Report 2007-8. Figures for 2007-08 are derived from the Ministry of Justice Annual Accounts 2007-08

The figures reflect the structure of NOMS before the creation of the new NOMS Agency from 2008-09.

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
2007-08	4,722	577
2006-07	4,358	400
2005-06	4,034	354
2004-05	3,090	403

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many are employed in the National Offender Management Service Head Office; and how many of these are former employees of the *(a)* probation and *(b)* prison service. [240415]

Mr. Malik: 4,270 staff are employed in National Offender Management Service Headquarters. Of these, 113 transferred from the National Probation Service, 742 transferred from the former National Offender Management Service HQ, and 3,415 from the Prison Service Headquarters.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been seconded from *(a)* the Probation Service and *(b)* the Prison Service to work in the National Offender Management Service's headquarters. [241332]

Mr. Malik: There are currently 98 probation service staff on secondment into the National Offender Management Service headquarters. Prison Service staff share the same terms and conditions as other directly employed staff working in the National Offender Management Service headquarters and are therefore not on secondment.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many absconds there were from open prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 24 months; and how many offences were committed by such offenders while unlawfully at large. [242062]

Mr. Hanson: Levels of absconding have been falling steadily for some years now and are currently at their lowest levels since central recording of these data began in 1995. The following table shows the numbers of prisoners absconding from prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 24 months and numbers of further offences committed while unlawfully at large.

Prisoners absconding from prisons in England and Wales and number of further offences committed while unlawfully at large

Month	*Total prisoners absconding*	*Further offences committed while unlawfully at large*
December 2006	44	3
January 2007	31	3
February 2007	44	8
March 2007	51	7
April 2007	49	7
May 2007	41	5
June 2007	53	4
July 2007	39	9
August 2007	50	10
September 2007	42	10
October 2007	44	8
November 2007	50	5
December 2007	35	7
January 2008	26	2
February 2008	32	7
March 2008	37	6
April 2008	41	
May 2008	28	1
June 2008	26	6
July 2008	18	1
August 2008	37	7
September 2008	31	1
October 2008	30	
November 2008	31	2
Total	944	125

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are also available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Prevention of Corruption Act 1906

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906. [241161]

Maria Eagle: The Government believe the current law on bribery, including the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, is functional but fragmented and needs to be brought up to date. We announced in the Legislative Programme our intention to publish a draft Bribery Bill this Session which would replace the existing Prevention of Corruption Acts. We are currently assessing the Law Commission's report on 'Reforming Bribery' that was published on 20 November 2008.

Prisoners: Crimes of Violence

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what programmes were operating in prisons in relation to prisoners who were serving sentences for hate crimes at the latest date for which information is available; [241319]

(2) what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other assistance his Department is providing to the Anne Frank Trust for its projects involving offenders in prison and young offenders institutions in 2008-09; [241320]

(3) what programmes his Department has put in place to work with those convicted of hate crime to reduce their levels of re-offending; [241321]

(4) what programmes his Department has put in place to work with those people for whom hatred or racism played a part in their crime to reduce their re-offending; [241322]

(5) which *(a)* prisons and *(b)* probation services have established programmes to reduce rates of re-offending amongst individuals imprisoned for hate crimes. [241323]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) offers a range of accredited programmes for offenders based on their specific behavioural needs as well as other activities such as education, work, resettlement and training. The programmes are accredited to be responsive to the diverse needs of offenders. There are no accredited offending behaviour programmes targeted specifically at offenders who have been convicted or are serving sentences for crimes where hate or racism was an aggravating factor. Many of the existing accredited programmes address risk factors found in such offenders.

Some establishments and probation areas also deliver non-accredited programmes which are agreed locally to meet a particular need. Information on all these courses is not currently collated centrally. NOMS is aware that Merseyside, West Yorkshire and London probation areas have developed local packages to address issues around hatred and racially motivated offending.

NOMS is currently undertaking a census of non-accredited programmes delivered in custody and the community, which will show the number and type of programmes available for hate crime offenders. Following the census, there will be a programme of work to assess the benefits of certain interventions in addressing particular types of offending. Locally developed programmes that tackle hate crime are likely to fall into scope for such a review.

Work with the Anne Frank Trust has been agreed locally by some prisons and young offender institutions to meet particular needs. Details of the funding arrangements and nature of the assistance provided are not centrally recorded.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are receiving housing advice in preparation for resettlement. [240692]

Mr. Malik: All offenders in custody in England and Wales have access to housing advice in preparation for their release. All prisons that release offenders provide advice and assistance (over 130 prisons) in seeking new accommodation for those offenders who are in housing need. Additionally, all offenders entering custody have their accommodation status assessed within the first four days of custody to signpost further assistance where necessary.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what re-settlement support is made available by his Department to prisoners seeking employment. [240698]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) works in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Job Centre Plus (JCP), and is engaged with employers nationally, regionally, and locally to offer training and employment to offenders.

Job Centre Plus have employment and benefit advisers located in most prisons to provide prisoners with advice and information about employment opportunities available on release, and can arrange an appointment with a new claims adviser prior to release. Prisoners can also be fast tracked on to the New Deal employment programme.

NOMS recognises that it is more difficult for offenders to find employment if they have problems accessing accommodation and financial services. We are currently working with key stakeholders to explore and formally pilot initiatives such as accessing bank accounts whilst in custody, rent arrears payment schemes and preventing accommodation loss.

The Ministry of Justice also has established a corporate alliance of over 100 employers working to maximise employment opportunities for prisoners prior to and on release.

Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were engaged in alcohol-related intervention programmes in 2007-08, broken down by method of intervention. [241081]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collate figures centrally on the number of prisoners accessing services specifically aimed at their alcohol misuse.

A range of interventions are available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

a number of prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in around 67 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

an accredited 12-step alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon;

a further four more intensive interventions Cognitive Behavioural Alcohol Programmes are being piloted at HMP Hull, Forest Bank, Glen Parva and Chelmsford;

for those prisons(ers) involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) a 90 minute alcohol awareness session has been developed; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-old prisoners has a particular focus on alcohol.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were engaged in drug-related intervention during 2007-08, broken down by method of intervention. [240700]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

NOMS does not collate centrally the number of individual prisoners accessing drug interventions. However, the following table shows the number of interventions delivered in the last full financial year (2007-08) in adult prisons by intervention type. Individual prisoners may have accessed more than one of these interventions in the time period.

Intervention type	*Interventions delivered 2007-08*
Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Programmes[1] (starts)	11,319
CARATs (substance misuse triage assessments)	65,823
Substance misuse detoxification programmes[2]	46,291
Maintenance prescribing programmes	12,518
Total	135,951

[1] Programmes available in prison are split into four main categories: "cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT)", "The 12-Step approach", "Therapeutic Communities (TCs)", "Short Duration Programme (SDP)".

[2] Drug and alcohol detoxification data cannot be disaggregated.

Prisons: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent reductions there have been to budgets of *(a)* prisons and *(b)* other detention facilities in respect of the financial year 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [240316]

Mr. Hanson: Prison budgets for 2008-09 have not been reduced below 2007-08 levels. However, among various changes to prison budgets (e.g. for inflation, increased capacity, efficiency measures etc.) there was a package of savings totalling £29 million directed at public sector prisons, which included local efficiencies; further clustering of services; and a standardisation of the core day in most prisons which took place in June 2008.

Spending on prisons has increased in real terms by 42 per cent. since 1996-97 (to 2007-08).

Prostitution: Offenders

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of common prostitution, loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution under the terms of the Street Offences Act 1959 in each of the last two years; and how many of them were (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals; [240569]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of placing an advertisement relating to prostitution in each of the last two years; and how many of them were (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals; [240570]

(3) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of kerb-crawling in each of the last two years; and how many of them were (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals. [240571]

Maria Eagle: The information requested covering offences relating to prostitution is provided in the table for 2006 and 2007 (latest available). The data held centrally by my Department on the Court Proceedings Database do not contain information about the nationality status of the offender other than the information that may be gleaned from the offence itself.

The figures given relate to defendants for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to prostitution, by year, 2006 and 2007[1,2]

		2006		2007	
Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution	Street Offences Act 1959	845	648	874	526
Placing of advertisement relating to prostitution	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001	431	392	366	341
Kerb crawling	Sexual Offences Act 1985	625	532	554	491

[1] Figures given are on a principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit

Reoffenders

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate is for offenders *(a)* one year and *(b)* two years after leaving custody. [240695]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 as follows shows the one year reoffending rates for offenders leaving custody in the first quarter of the years 2000 to 2006 (data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data for community sentences). The table shows the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

Table 1: One year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody, 2000-06

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (one year) (percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders (one year)*
2000	15,727	51.4	245.5
2002	15,578	55.0	288.2
2003	14,358	53.9	279.1
2004	15,761	51.9	253.1
2005	14,595	49.1	228.5
2006	14,380	46.5	208.4

Two year reoffending rates are available for the 2000 to 2005 cohorts. For these cohorts, the only figures available are the proportion of offenders who committed a further offence within two years. These figures are shown in table 2 as follows.

Table 2: Two year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody, 2000-05

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (two years) (percentage)*
2000	16,527	64.8
2002	15,887	67.4
2003	15,305	65.8
2004	16,385	64.7
2005	14,713	62.1

It should be noted that comparisons between the one and two year rates should be interpreted with caution. This is due to a slight improvement in the method used to count offenders released from custody (or starting court orders under probation supervision) when we moved to measuring reoffending over one year rather than two.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Further information on the two year rates can be found at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

We have had real success in reducing the reoffending of offenders released from custody. Between 2000 and 2006 the number of reoffences committed by offenders released from custody has fallen 15.1 per cent.

Overall, the most recent reoffending statistics, published in September 2008, demonstrated that reoffending frequency fell among adult offenders in 2006.

The figures showed a 22.9 per cent. fall in the frequency rate from 189.4 to 146.1 offences per 100 offenders between 2000 and 2006.The number of adult reoffences classified as most serious fell 11.1 per cent. from 0.78 to 0.69 offences per 100 offenders.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on reoffending rates of the change in the core day introduced in 2008. [242068]

Mr. Hanson: The measurement of reoffending is taken over a period of a year therefore an analysis of the impact of the core day on reoffending, if any, will be available at the end of 2009.

Re-offenders: Mentally Ill

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the reoffending rate among prisoners suffering from severe psychiatric disorders in each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [240749]

Mr. Hanson: There are no relevant figures for prisoners, but they are published for offenders who have been diverted to hospital. The bulletin, 'Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders', covering England and Wales, summarises information about mentally disordered offenders detained as 'restricted patients' in psychiatric hospitals; it also provides information on their re-offending rates. The last bulletin is for 2006:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm

This shows that, for the combined figures of those released in 1999-2004 and then followed up for two years, 2 per cent. re-offended through violent or sexual offences; and 7 per cent. through any offence. These figures only relate to those first released on a conditional discharge, and exclude those recalled.

Repossession Orders: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 2001. [242903]

Bridget Prentice: Although figures for the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are not available, the following table shows the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend and Woolwich county courts from 2001 onwards.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated.

Obviously, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend and Woolwich county courts also cover areas other than Bexleyheath and Crayford and therefore not all possession actions at these courts will relate to this constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Table 1: Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[4,5] in Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend[6] and Woolwich county courts, 2001 onwards

	Bromley	Woolwich	Dartford	Gravesend	Total
2001	327	132	291	89	839
2002	406	215	268	89	978
2003	555	214	290	86	1,145
2004	599	349	404	131	1,483
2005	1,047	642	552	202	2,443
2006	1,131	911	719	216	2,977
2007	1,062	1,044	939	—	3,045
2008 (Jan-Oct)	956	668	780	—	2,404

Table 2: Number of landlord[2,3] possession orders made[4,5] in Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend[6] and Woolwich county courts, 2001 onwards

	Bromley	Woolwich	Dartford	Gravesend	Total
2001	1,641	1,401	618	193	3,853
2002	1,709	1,356	560	206	3,831
2003	1,412	1,259	461	252	3,384
2004	1,264	1,223	458	195	3,140
2005	1,361	1,373	489	195	3,418
2006	1,266	1,026	492	155	2,939
2007	1,307	990	704	—	3,001
2008 (Jan-Oct)	937	763	706	—	2,406

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Includes orders made through both standard and accelerated procedures.

[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the order.

[5] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent evictions.

[6] Gravesend county court closed in November 2006 with cases redirected to Dartford county court.

Note:

Figures for 2008 are provisional.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Tackling Knives Action Programme

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons convicted for carrying a knife in one of the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme pilots have *(a)* been sentenced to custody and *(b)* been given a community programme that did not involve unpaid work; [240480]

(2) how many *(a)* adults, *(b)* 18 to 21 year olds and *(c)* juveniles were sentenced for offences involving a knife or other bladed article in (i) Greater Manchester, (ii) Lancashire, (iii) London, (iv) the West Midlands, (v) West Yorkshire, (vi) the Thames Valley, (vii) Merseyside, (viii) Essex, (ix) Nottinghamshire and (x) South Wales in (A) August, (B) September, (C) October and (D) November 2008; how many in each age category in each area received a (1) custodial and (2) community sentence; and of those receiving a community sentence, how many were ordered to undertake a 300 hour community payback sentence on up to five days each week. [240482]

Mr. Hanson: Finalised data for sentencing for knife and offensive weapon possession in the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) areas in 2008 will not be available until "Sentencing Statistics 2008" is published in November 2009. However, as part of TKAP, provisional data from management information systems are being gathered. These data are not sufficiently robust to be broken down into the detail requested, and will be subject to continual revision.

In the TKAP areas in August and September 2008 (the most recent period for which data are available), the Police National Computer records that 768 community sentences and 529 custodial sentences were given for knife and offensive weapon possession. More detail is given in the following table.

Sentences for knife and offensive weapon possession in August and September 2008 split by age from police national computer

Age band	*Community sentences*	*Custodial sentences*[1]
10 to 17	307	36
18 to 20	139	104
21 and over	322	389
All ages	768	529

[1] Excludes suspended sentence orders.

Data from the Probation Service relating to unpaid work requirements under Community Orders started in England and Wales with a sentence length of 300 hours; indicate fewer than 10 in 2007, and data are still being finalised for 2008 as it is unusual for the courts to sentence at the very maximum of any disposal. There were 269 Community Orders started for possession of offensive weapons in the 10 TKAP areas between July and September 2008 which did not involve unpaid work.

All the figures quoted in this answer have been taken from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been made the subject of an unpaid work requirement in the Tackling Knives Action Programme pilots. [240481]

Mr. Hanson: The number of persons given an unpaid work requirement with a Community or Suspended Sentence Order for the offence of possession of an offensive weapon in the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme areas during the period July-September is shown as follows. Note that the figures stated are provisional and will not be finalised until the publication of the Quarterly Probation brief in January of next year.

	Number
July	187
August	152
September	173
Total	512

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. As with any large scale recording system, these are subject to possible data entry and processing errors.

Young Offender Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of violence between inmates have been recorded in Feltham A and Feltham B young offender institution in each of the last 12 months; [240436]

(2) how many and what punishments have been issued by the Governor of Feltham A and B young offender institution to inmates involved in violence within the institution in the last six months. [240437]

Mr. Hanson: Central NOMS data do not use the term 'incidents of violence'; information is recorded under the term assaults. The following tables show incidents of prisoner on prisoner assaults in Feltham A and Feltham B in the last 12 months.

The information is set out in the tables and is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers' Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to the public and contracted out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Table 1: Assault incidents in Feltham A in the last 12 months

	Number
2007	
December	23
2008	
January	28
February	25
March	27
April	33
May	36
June	31
July	28
August	25
September	34
October	25
November	35

Note:
Feltham A holds young people

Table 2: Assault incidents in Feltham B in the last 12 months

	Number
2007	
December	12
2008	
January	11
February	13
March	11

Table 2: Assault incidents in Feltham B in the last 12 months

	Number
April	15
May	16
June	10
July	10
August	24
September	26
October	29
November	22

Note:
Feltham B holds young adults

The average population at HMYOI Feltham during this period was 609. Age is a known risk factor and younger prisoners are more likely to be involved in assaults than older prisoners. As regrettable as each assault incident is, the numbers are within the expected range.

Data on proven adjudications and the punishments imposed at each prison are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Adjudication awards are determined at a local level and therefore those awarded at HMYOI Feltham are not comparable to those awarded at other establishments. Data on punishments imposed at adjudications across the estate are published annually in chapter 9 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics, available on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/omcs2007.pdf.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 15 December 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people took early retirement from his Department in each of the last five years. [243231]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the number of staff who took early retirement from the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years.

	Number
2004-05	7
2005-06	6
2006-07	2
2007-08	1
2008-09 (to date)	1

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in his Department in each of the last three years. [240956]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows expenditure on employing press and communications officers within the Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies and executive NDPBs) in each of the last three financial years.

	Northern Ireland Office (£000)
2005-06	596
2006-07	686
2007-08	532

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241957]

Paul Goggins: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Northern Ireland Office internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other government departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240456]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure relating to official hospitality is recorded on the departmental finance system and is inclusive of any expenditure on alcohol for official hospitality.

Expenditure on hospitality is set out in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 772W, on departmental older workers, what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage older people to apply to work in the Department. [243528]

Mr. Woodward: All advertisements to posts in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) carry an Equal Opportunities statement to the effect that the NIO is an Equal Opportunities Employer. This covers all section 75 categories, including age.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental pensions, what the reasons are for the increases in the cost of pension contributions in each year. [243230]

Mr. Woodward: There are three reasons which account for the increases in the cost of pension contributions in each year. Increases in scheme membership, salaries paid and employer's accruing superannuation liability charges.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental pensions, what the future projections are of the cost of pension contributions incurred in each financial year up to 2015. [243233]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has not projected the future estimated cost of departmental pension contributions that may be incurred, beyond the 2008-09 financial year.

Departmental Press Releases

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on departmental press releases, how many press releases his Department has issued in the last five years. [243381]

Mr. Woodward: Records of the number of press releases issued by my Department (core only) in the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Number of press releases issued by NIO
2003-04	188
2004-05	289
2005-06	362
2006-07	360
2007-08	198

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on departmental press releases, how many press releases each of his press officers has released in the last 12 months. [243382]

Mr. Woodward: The Department issued 206 press releases in the period 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008. All press releases are issued centrally from the press office and not by individual press officers.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-1W, on recruitment and religion, in what ways the Department of Finance and Personnel has liaised with representatives of ethnic communities in the last 12 months. [243504]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Finance and Personnel is a Department within the Northern Ireland Administration and this matter is their responsibility.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-1W, on recruitment and religion, how many people have been recruited to posts in his Department from non-Christian backgrounds in the last 12 months. [243505]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not monitor the religion or beliefs of its staff. In accordance with the requirements of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998, those NIO staff working in Northern Ireland are monitored for community background only.

Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242016]

Mr. Woodward: No Northern Ireland Office staff have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in the last three years.

Languages

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people in Northern Ireland who are fluent speakers of *(a)* Polish, *(b)* Mandarin, *(c)* Irish, *(d)* Ulster Scots, *(f)* Portuguese, *(g)* Spanish, *(h)* French and *(i)* German. [243201]

Mr. Woodward: My office does not hold this information as this is a devolved matter.

The provision of official information on Northern Ireland's population is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency which is an Executive agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W, on the Olympic Games 2012, (1) what plans his Department has to involve Northern Ireland in the 2012 Olympic games; [243383]

(2) when he next expects to hold discussions with *(a)* the First Minister and *(b)* the Deputy First Minister on this matter. [243384]

Mr. Woodward: I have no ministerial responsibility in respect of the Olympic and Paralympic games 2012 and accordingly I have no plans to hold discussions with the First and Deputy First Minister on this matter.

However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Minister for the Olympics are determined to ensure that the whole of the UK is engaged with and benefits from the games in 2012. His Department and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games are working closely with the Northern Ireland Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, which leads and co-ordinates all aspects relating to the 2012 games for Northern Ireland, to maximise benefits for Northern Ireland.

PSNI: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Public Prosecution Service in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241817]

(2) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Prison Service in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241818]

(3) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Forensic Science Northern Ireland Service in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241819]

(4) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Youth Justice Agency in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241820]

(5) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Compensation Agency in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241821]

(6) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Independent Assessor for Police Service of Northern Ireland Recruitment Applications in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241822]

(7) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Policing Board in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241823]

(8) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Office of the Police Ombudsman in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241824]

(9) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Police Fund in the current three year comprehensive spending review period; [241825]

(10) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241826]

(11) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241827]

(12) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Probation Board in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241828]

(13) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Law Commission in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241829]

(14) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Independent Assessor for Police Service of Northern Ireland recruitment applications in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241830]

(15) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Parades Commission in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241831]

(16) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241832]

(17) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Independent Monitoring Boards of *(a)* Maghaberry, *(b)* Magilligan and *(c)* Hydebank Wood prisons in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241833]

(18) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Prisoner Ombudsman in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241834]

(19) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Life Sentence Review Commissioners in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241835]

(20) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Commissioner for Hearings under Prison Rule 109B (Loss of Remission Commissioner) in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period; [241836]

(21) what the estimated resource expenditure is of the State Pathologist in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period. [241841]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the current resource budget allocations, under the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07), for the bodies requested.

			£000
Body	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Public Prosecution Service	36,558	35,714	36,677
Northern Ireland Prison Service	134,868	139,800	144,501
Forensic Science Agency	2,430	1,589	1,666
Youth Justice Agency	21,089	21,771	22,457
Compensation Agency	49,992	16,032	15,608
Northern Ireland Policing Board	8,666	8,797	9,035
Office of the Police Ombudsman	9,482	9,938	10,199
Northern Ireland Police Fund	1,849	1,899	1,950
RUC George Cross Foundation	154	158	162
Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	1,453	1,525	1,561
Northern Ireland Probation Board	16,778	18,597	19,997
Northern Ireland Law Commission	500	514	527
Independent Assessor for Police Service of Northern Ireland Recruitment Applications	25	26	27
Parades Commission	1,141	1,192	1,226
Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust	2,234	2,294	2,356
Independent Monitoring Boards	110	110	110
Prisoner Ombudsman	619	683	699
Life Sentence Review Commissioners	801	951	1,271
Commissioner for Hearings under Prison Rule 109B[1]	12	12	12
State Pathologist	2,190	1,766	1,800

[1] £12,000 included within Prison Service figures

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the EU target of 96.14 per cent. of payments by value under the single payment scheme in England was met in each of the scheme years to date; and when he expects the target to be met for the 2008 scheme year. [241251]

Jane Kennedy: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) announced on its website that it had exceeded the EU target of 96.154 per cent. of payments, by value, on the following dates:

	Date
2005	2 August 2006
2006	13 June 2007
2007	11 June 2008

RPA is not in a position to predict the date when payments made for the 2008 scheme year will exceed the EU target, as this will depend on the associated values of the particular claims as they complete validation and are ready to be paid out.

RPA is committed to meeting its formal targets of making 75 per cent. of payments, by value, by the end of January 2009 and 90 per cent. by value by the end of March 2009.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims of under *(a)* £300 and *(b)* £500 were made under the single farm payments scheme in England in 2007. [241646]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Under the Single Payment Scheme 2007 in England, to date 10,898 payments have been made where the claim value was under £300 and 16,605 payments have been made where the claim value was under £500. It should be noted that these numbers may reduce if payments are subsequently voided.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on inspections to support the work of the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [242423]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The direct costs of the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) Inspectorate for the last five years are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	14.5
2004-05	19.7
2005-06	19.0
2006-07	23.0
2007-08	19.6

The Inspectorate also carries out inspections on behalf of other administrative bodies in addition to RPA such as Natural England. These costs include administering, carrying out and reporting on physical inspections but do not include overheads or the costs of administering the results of those inspections.

The costs for 2004-05 onwards include expenditure relating to services provided by agents.

The increase in the 2006-07 costs were as a result of merging Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate into the Inspectorate.

The Environment Agency also undertakes inspections in support of the work of the RPA but does not allocate any specific costs towards such inspections because the majority of visits are undertaken as a matter of course. However the Environment Agency has identified costs of additional reporting and it is estimated that the following is spent per annum:

	£
Cost of inspections	15,500
Cost of admin	25,600
Additional costs	10,000
Total	51,100

Animal Health also spent the following amount on inspections to support the work of the RPA:

Financial year	*£*
2006-07	47,291
2007-08	84,007

Animal Health does not hold figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 because the State Veterinary Service was part of Core DEFRA during that period. 2005-06 was the first year for the State Veterinary Service as an Executive Agency of DEFRA and this was a transition period in respect of data.

Animal Health: Training

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on inspections, if he will break down the cost of training programmes for 2007-08 by category of programme. [241994]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Animal Health do not hold figures of training by programme. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Bluetongue Disease: Import Controls

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what precautionary steps his Department has taken to prevent the spread of BTV8 and BTV1 from imported live stock to domestic sheep and cattle in the UK. [243827]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA continues to conduct post-import tests on all imported animals for all BT serotypes. This means we can detect all types of Bluetongue through our routine testing.

We have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This strategy was reviewed recently in light of this year's experience and to address risk from other serotypes, and was published on the DEFRA website on 1 December

Details of the Control Strategy are currently available on the DEFRA website. Copies will also be placed in the House Library.

DEFRA continues to urge industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of bluetongue vaccine uptake in England. [241481]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against bluetongue in England is voluntary, and delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals earlier this year. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no definitive figures can be provided on the numbers of livestock actually vaccinated.

However, to date, sales data from the supply chain suggests the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is around 60 per cent. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the South East and East of England, but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

Bottles: Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost of introducing a deposit and return scheme for bottles; how such a scheme would be applied; and how it would work in practice. [240896]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has not recently estimated the cost of introducing a deposit and return system for bottles. A study undertaken for DEFRA in 2004-05 estimated that the annual operating costs for such a system would be in the region of £100 million. We recently commissioned a study by Environmental Resources Management which looked into the advantages and disadvantages of deposit systems and the issues that need to be addressed in setting up such systems. This report will be published shortly.

Bovine TB Eradication Group

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference of the Bovine TB Eradication Group are. [242884]

Jane Kennedy: The Terms of Reference of the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England are:

> To make recommendations to the Secretary of State on bovine TB and its eradication.
>
> To review the current TB strategy and control measures and develop a plan for reducing the incidence of bovine TB from cattle in England and moving towards eventual eradication. To assess options to help farmers in high incidence areas maintain viable businesses when under disease restrictions.
>
> To make recommendations on other issues as they arise. DEFRA may also choose to refer specific issues to the group.

The group will look at the options available to address infection in cattle and to reduce the risk of transmission between cattle and between cattle and wildlife, and consider costs and benefits in making recommendations for action. It will consider options for using vaccination in cattle and badgers. It will also consider any exceptional circumstances or new scientific evidence that might arise relating to the established policy on badger culling for control of TB.

A priority output from the work of this group will be a series of measures which can be submitted to the European Commission for approval as part of a formal eradication plan.

Departmental Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the waste generated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency has been recycled or composted in each of the last three years. [240890]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA recycled and composted the following amounts of waste in each of the last three years.

Tonnes/percentage

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total waste	4,283	5,716	5,252
Recycled/ composted	948	1,640	1,385
Percentage recycled	22	29	26
Reused/incinerated with energy recovery	1,262	1,047	1,506
Percentage recovered	52	47	55

At this time the Sustainable Development Commission has yet to publish Government data for 2007-08.

DEFRA has increased the number of sites on which it reports from 39 in 2004-05 to 54 in 2006-07. The waste data also include laboratory waste. A large amount of laboratory waste is hazardous and cannot be recycled.

The following table shows Environment Agency estimates for waste recycled from its offices and depots for the last two financial years. Prior to 2006-07 records were not held centrally and are therefore unavailable.

Kilograms/percentage

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Total waste	448,227	508,324
Landfilled	170,055	153,461
Recycled	267,956	351,634
Percentage recycled	60	69

Farmers: Income

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total income generated by farming in England *(a)* in absolute terms expressed in pounds sterling and *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic product in each of the last three years. [241482]

Jane Kennedy: Latest estimates of Total Income from Farming for England for the last three years are shown as follows.

Total Income from Farming: England

	£ million
2005	1,415.5
2006	1,554.6
2007 (provisional)	1,630.6

Total Income from Farming (TIFF) is income generated by production within the agriculture industry, including subsidies. It represents business profits plus remuneration for work done by owners and other unpaid workers.

Agriculture's contribution to the economy is measured by its contribution to Gross Value Added. Gross Value Added differs from Total Income from Farming in that it excludes consumption of fixed capital, subsidies and taxes that are decoupled from production, compensation of employees, net rent and interest. The latest estimates of Gross Value Added for agriculture expressed as a percentage of Gross Value Added in England are shown as follows; an estimate for 2007 is not yet available.

Agriculture's GVA as percentage of regional GVA: England

	Percentage
2005	0.43
2006	0.44
2007 (provisional)	Not yet available

Farmers: Markets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the effects of farmers' markets on *(a)* producers and *(b)* consumers. [241706]

Jane Kennedy: In recent years DEFRA has commissioned general research relating to regional and local food and these studies have examined the impacts of farmers markets on both producers and consumers. A recent example of such a study is research carried out for DEFRA by the University of Plymouth entitled, "Understanding of Consumer Attitudes and Actual Purchasing Behaviour, with Reference to Local and Regional Foods". A copy of this report can be found on the DEFRA website.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much hazardous waste was sent to landfill in each of the last three years. [240892]

Jane Kennedy: The amount of hazardous waste landfilled in each of the last three years was:

	Tonnes
2005	1,010,700
2006	900,000
2007	850,000

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements for the management of hazardous waste; and if he will make a statement. [241710]

Jane Kennedy: Government set out the detailed arisings, trends and projections on hazardous waste in Waste Strategy for England 2007 (annex C9). The document includes an analysis of facility needs for England in order to cope with changes in legislation affecting the management of hazardous waste. That analysis identified priority needs for certain facilities, which continue to exist. We are working closely with the Environment Agency and the waste sector to help develop a more detailed picture of facility needs and to develop the strategy to help realise those facilities.

Horse Racing: Animal Breeding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to limit the number of thoroughbred horses which may be bred by the racing industry; and if he will make a statement. [243017]

Jane Kennedy: We have no plans to bring forward such proposals.

Horses: Artificial Insemination

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many frozen semen straws from the Hannoverian stallion (Weltmeyer 31-44035-84) have been imported since 1 January 1989; and how many such straws have been checked by an Agricultural Development Advisory Service vet. [240690]

Jane Kennedy: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided for research on farm animal diseases in each of the last five years. [241475]

Jane Kennedy: The figures for DEFRA funding for research on farm animal diseases over the last five years are as follows:

	£ million
2007-8	34.5
2006-7	35.1
2005-6	34.8
2004-5	35.6
2003-4	34.0

Figures taken from records held within the DEFRA Animal Health and Welfare Evidence Base Unit.

Livestock: Transport

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the six-day movement rule for farm livestock. [241479]

Jane Kennedy: In 2003, an extensive cost benefit analysis into movement standstills demonstrated the significant benefits of standstill regimes in reducing both the size and cost of a disease outbreak. These conclusions remain valid. Standstills confer significant protection when disease is present but undetected. It would not be desirable to remove this protection from the livestock industry.

This is a devolved issue and while we in DEFRA have no plans to review the standstill. The Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament would need to be consulted to determine the position in Wales and Scotland.

Packaging: Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many companies have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of being in breach of the Producer Responsibility Obligation (Packaging Waste) Regulations. [240921]

Jane Kennedy: Since the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations in 1998 there have been around 375 successful prosecutions in the UK.

In 2007, the last compliance year, there were 62 successful prosecutions in England and Wales resulting in fines of over £700,000. There were no prosecutions in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* European Union Commissioners on the pet movement derogation and its expiry date in June 2010. [241477]

Jane Kennedy: My Department has held a number of meetings with other Government Departments, the Commission and other member states regarding pet movement controls and are planning to have further discussions with the Commission in the new year.

Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to increase levels of processing of material awaiting recycling. [240835]

Jane Kennedy: The UK's performance in increasing recycling and reducing reliance on landfill has improved significantly in recent years. We have also seen increased demand for recyclable materials for developing economies, reflected in the unprecedented rise in the value of these materials earlier this year. Demand and prices for some materials have now dropped significantly and we want to ensure that this does not undermine public confidence in the value of recycling, nor lead to unacceptable environmental consequences. Indeed, resource efficiency and waste prevention are even more important during the economic downturn.

On 5 December, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) launched a new advice forum for local authorities to help them deal with lower prices and weaker demand for recyclable materials.

Recovered materials are still a valuable resource and, as with other commodities, prices can rise or fall sharply. Even in the current climate, not all commodities are affected. The price paid for glass, for example, continues to remain stable. Despite weaker markets for some recovered materials, WRAP research shows there is still strong demand for many higher quality recyclable materials. While demand for some lower quality recycled materials (e.g. mixed plastic trays, tubs, and pots) has dropped, there is still capacity and demand for other higher quality recyclables with low levels of contamination (such as plastic bottles and glass).

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of prevailing market conditions within the recycling industry on *(a)* levels of waste treatment and *(b)* waste storage capacity. [242704]

Jane Kennedy: The UK's performance in increasing recycling and reducing reliance on landfill has improved significantly in recent years. We have also seen increased demand for recyclable materials for developing economies, reflected in the unprecedented rise in the value of these materials earlier this year. Demand and prices for some materials have now dropped significantly and we want to ensure that this does not undermine public confidence in the value of recycling, or lead to unacceptable environmental consequences. Indeed, resource efficiency and waste prevention are even more important during the economic downturn.

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WRAP and the Environment Agency are monitoring current levels of waste storage by local authorities and waste management companies. The situation is dynamic. There has been no marked increase in requests for additional temporary storage of waste. WRAP and the Environment Agency will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Textiles: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistics his Department holds on the amount of textile waste *(a)* recycled and *(b)* sent to landfill in each of the last five years. [240809]

Jane Kennedy: The following table details the amount of textiles waste from household sources recycled in England since 2003-04. This is likely to underestimate household textile recycling, as some will be recorded as co-mingled waste. No reliable data are currently available for textile waste sent to landfill.

Recycled textiles

	Thousand tonnes
2003-04	59
2004-05	71
2005-06[1]	86
2006-07[1]	103
2007-08[1]	113

[1] Contains a small amount of municipally collected textiles from non-household sources.

Source:

WasteDataFlow

Waste Management: Fly Tipping

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to allow landowners to take fly-tipped waste to local authority waste management facilities; and if he will make a statement; [243073]

(2) what steps he is taking to help landowners deal with fly-tipped waste on private land; [243074]

(3) whether he plans to give *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Environment Agency an increased role in dealing with fly-tipped waste on private land. [243075]

Jane Kennedy: Landowners may dispose of waste at local authority waste management facilities but will often be charged for disposal given that it is not household waste. We have no plans to impose a new, unfunded burden on local authorities by obliging them to accept fly-tipped waste free of charge.

DEFRA is this year funding the Environment Agency to work with major landowner organisations on the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group. The Landowner Partnership Programme aims to quantify the extent of fly-tipping on private land and, through the dissemination of best practice techniques, reduce the financial impact of waste crime on private landowners.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 487-9W, on compensation, of the 53 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, how many registered a claim for compensation; and of those who registered claims, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the length of time from injury to registration. [243179]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Of the 53 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, 42 personnel have subsequently made a claim for compensation as at 13 November 2008.

The following table presents the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for the distribution of time, in days, from the date of injury to the date on which compensation claims were registered with the Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency.

Percentiles for the distribution of time, in days, from injury to registration for seriously injured personnel

Percentile	*Days*
10th	41
25th	61
50th	138
75th	202
90th	347

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 487-9W, on compensation, of the 41 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, how many registered a claim for compensation; and of those who registered claims, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the length of time from injury to registration. [243180]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Of the 41 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, 38 personnel have subsequently made a claim for compensation as at 13 November 2008.

The following table presents the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for the distribution of time, in days, from the date of injury to the date on which compensation claims were registered with the Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency.

Percentiles for the distribution of time, in days, from injury to registration for very seriously injured personnel

Percentile	*Days*
10th	56
25th	91
50th	142
75th	226
90th	303

Armed Forces: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals have been used in defence research projects in each of the last three years. [240970]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The majority of animal procedures undertaken over the last three years for Defence research were performed by Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) at Porton Down.

Dstl Porton Down submits annual returns to the Home Office detailing the number of procedures undertaken which involve the use of animals as defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

In the years 2005 to 2007, the annual returns to the Home Office, broken down by species are detailed in the following table.

	G. Pig	*Ferret*	*Mouse*	*Pig*	*Rabbit*	*Rat*	*Sheep*	*Non-human primates*	*Total*
2005	661	60	20,016	127	3	189	2	94	21,118
2006	545	0	15,988	123	0	335	4	92	17,045
2007	647	0	17,095	174	5	389	2	75	18,257

In addition, testing on live goats took place at QinetiQ Alverstone as part of MOD's Submarine Escape and Abandonment System (SMERAS). 64 procedures were carried out in 2005 and 60 procedures were carried out on a herd of approximately 40 goats until November 2006 when animal procedures stopped.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what current defence research projects involve the use of animal procedures. [241315]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department is currently undertaking research into defence medical countermeasures, combat casualty care and trauma assessment programmes, which by necessity involve the use of animal procedures.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what type of animals are kept at public expense in each of the armed services. [243459]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the numbers and types of animals kept at public expense in each of the armed services:

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
Military working dogs	0	166	292
Birds of prey	16	0	0
Horses	0	[illegible]	0

For military working dogs, Army data are at 1 August 2008 (the latest date this information was captured). All other data are at 12 December 2008.

Regimental or unit mascots may be partially funded at public expense. However, many of them are funded to a varying degree from regimental funds in addition to the public purse. The Army currently has the following mascots: two Drum horses; one Indian Black Buck; one Irish Wolfhound; two Mountain goats; two Swalesdale rams; and three Shetland ponies. Neither the RN nor the RAF has any mascots.

Armed Forces: Dogs

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many dog handlers are employed as *(a)* civilians and *(b)* servicemen in each of the three armed services. [243457]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Royal Navy has no military working dog handlers, the Army has 178, and the Royal Air Force has 252. Army data are at 1 August 2008 (which was the last time this information was captured) and RAF data are at 12 December 2008.

All Army and Royal Air Force military working dog handlers are service personnel.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many dogs are kept by each of the armed services; and for what purposes. [243458]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Royal Navy has no dogs, the Army has 166 dogs and the Royal Air Force has 292 dogs. Army data are at 1 August 2008 (the latest date this information was captured) and RAF data are at 12 December 2008. Dogs are kept for the following purposes:

Type of dog	*Army*	*RAF*
Military working dogs		
Patrol dogs	82	180
Army/RAF Police	—	18
Arms and explosive search	50	36
Vehicle search	20	40
Drug detection	1	18
Tracker	10	—
Infantry patrol	2	—
Other		
Regimental mascot	1	—

Figures for military working dogs are a snapshot in time, and include those dogs being trained, those in service in the UK and those deployed on operations. It should be noted that the number of holdings may vary weekly according to training input and outflow, together with operational demand.

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people in the armed forces, *(b)* new recruits to the armed forces and *(c)* people who have left the armed forces in each of the last five years. [242863]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of people in the armed forces, the number of new recruits to the armed forces and the number of people who have left the armed forces in each of the last five years can be found in "Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—UK Regular Forces Strengths and Changes".

TSP 1 is published on monthly basis and the latest information as at 1 October 2008 can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=1&thiscontent=30&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=20081127&disText=01%20Oct%202008&from=listing&topDate=2008-11-27

All copies of TSP 1 are available in the Library of the House and also at:

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training his Department provides to military personnel on responding to emergencies and natural disasters. [242881]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Those elements of the armed forces which provide specialist capabilities to the civil authorities are regularly trained and exercised for their role. These include explosive ordnance disposal and search and rescue teams, civil contingencies reaction forces and counter terrorist forces.

Other elements of the armed forces will not routinely be involved in responding to emergencies or natural disasters, although they might be used to support the lead responders in particularly difficult circumstances. They would be provided with such training as was necessary prior to any such deployment. Defence also takes part in the national exercise programme in order to ensure that it can provide any support required by the lead responder. The Services chain of command in the regions of the UK is provided with regular training, education and exercising on the nature of military operations in the UK to ensure that they are prepared to command operations at short notice if required.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of UK's overseas military commitments on the ability of the armed forces to respond to a domestic emergency. [242882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's current overseas commitments have not at any time prevented the MOD from providing military assistance to the civilian authorities where it has been requested.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured and protected Land Rovers were deployed to Iraq prior to October 2003; what the vehicle classification was in each case; how many of each were deployed; and when each was deployed. [242620]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 52W, to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the timetable is for delivery of the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [243411]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [243412]

(3) what his current estimate is for the in-service date of the Future Rapid Effects System; [243413]

(4) how many *(a)* utility, *(b)* reconnaissance, *(c)* fires, *(d)* manoeuvre support and *(e)* basic capability vehicles will make up the Future Rapid Effects System. [243414]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Rapid Effect System programme is in its assessment phase. The number of vehicles that will be needed to meet the requirement, the timetable for delivery, funding allocation and the in-service date will not be fixed until the main investment decision has been taken.

Biological Weapons

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources and procedures his Department has in place to respond to *(a)* a biological terrorist attack, *(b)* a chemical terrorist attack and *(c)* a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack. [241778]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD makes a number of specialist capabilities available to the civil authorities for dealing with CBRN terrorism. These include mitigation advice, specialist search, explosive ordinance disposal, detection, sampling and identification, and decontamination, as well as access to world leading research and development in this field through the Defence Science Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE). Some of these capabilities are held at high readiness and routinely exercise and operate with police forces.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing training to members of the Colombian armed forces in each year since 2000. [242764]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In assisting the Colombian security forces in the areas of human rights and demining, the MOD spent the following approximate figures in each of the following financial years:

	£
2000-01	[1]3,500
2001-02	[1]49,000
2002-03	[1]34,000
2003-04	120,000
2004-05	120,000
2005-06	130,000
2006-07	190,000
2007-08	190,000
2008-09	[2]190,000

[1] Denotes information that is incomplete.

[2] Denotes estimated spend.

Note:

These figures do not include counter-narcotics assistance.

As well as these bilateral projects, the UK supports projects running through several UN agencies including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, that provide training to more than two thousand serving men and women.

Defence Equipment: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on equipment in each year since 1997. [242878]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since 2003 equipment expenditure data are published annually in Table 1.4 of the UK Defence Statistics by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DAS A). Copies can be found in the National Statistics section of the DAS A website:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/natstatsindex.html

This shows that the proportion of the Ministry of Defence's budget spent on equipment over the past five financial years has been as follows:

	Percentage
2003-04	29.3
2004-05	28.1
2005-06	27.6
2006-07	28.7
2007-08	28.3

Earlier information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Estates: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which wildlife conservation projects on Ministry of Defence sites in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* British territories overseas and *(c)* other countries armed forces personnel have a role in maintaining. [244052]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service personnel are engaged in numerous conservation projects in the UK and overseas. Full details of all these projects are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, examples of projects can be found in Sanctuary Magazine, the Department's annual conservation journal. Copies of the latest edition of Sanctuary Magazine are available in the Library of the House.

Defence: Statistics

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in his Department's expenditure as a result of discontinuing publication of defence export delivery statistics by UK Defence Statistics. [243253]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The direct saving to the Department by discontinuing the publication of defence export delivery statistics in "UK Defence Statistics" will be in the region of £30,000 per annum in staff costs. There are also additional, unquantified savings which have resulted from the avoidance of further work to implement alternative methods to produce these statistics for next year.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242928]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally in the form requested. However, records held centrally of civilian staff dismissed since April 2002 include no cases of dismissal specifically for losing or deliberately disclosing data or confidential information.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242138]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally in the form provided and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can say that approximately 430 civilian staff have recorded on the Department's central system over the last year that they are undertaking training leading to a degree.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the MOD's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Offices

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what area in square metres is occupied by each Defence Minister's *(a)* personnel and *(b)* private office in (i) any building used by his Department and (ii) his Department's main building. [243488]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Within the Ministry of Defence Main Building in Whitehall, Defence Minister's, and their private offices, including special advisers, are allocated the following areas:

	Square metres	
Minister	*Private office*	*Outer office*
Secretary of State for Defence	59	111
Minister of State for the Armed Forces	39	41
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Defence Equipment and Support	40	34
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans	40	55
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for International Defence and Security[1]	39	35

[1] Minister for IDS is currently in temporary accommodation (25m² private office, 19m² outer office) and the above figures are the size of the permanent location, which will be available in the new year.

Note:

Approximate areas, based on examination of the electronic copy of the floor plans.

Defence Ministers' personnel and private offices do not occupy space in any other Ministry of Defence building, either in London or elsewhere.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what bonus was awarded to the Permanent Under-Secretary of his Department during the financial year 2007-08. [243700]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Although the Government, with the agreement of those concerned, may in exceptional cases decide to publish personal information about individual public servants, the general policy is to treat such information, including about variable pay, as private.

Pay and reward for Permanent Secretaries is considered annually by the Permanent Secretaries' Remuneration Committee and is subject to the rules and regulations governed by the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and the Cabinet Office. Permanent Secretaries, pay has been constrained by the same centrally imposed ceiling of the senior civil service (SCS) pay bill since the current pay and reward arrangements for the senior civil service changed on 1 April 2002.

Non-consolidated bonus awards paid to the current and previous Permanent Under-Secretaries also fall within the SSRB recommended ceilings for the remainder of the SCS. These ceilings reflect the wider move to reward performance with non-consolidated, rather than consolidated, pay increases.

Bonuses for performance in a particular financial year are paid in the following financial year.

	Year/percentage
Performance year	2007-08
Paid in financial year	2008-09
SSRB average SCS bonus ceiling	8.6
Permanent Secretaries range	0-13.1

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242600]

Mr. Kevan Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence last used a train in the course of his official duties on 28 November 2008 while travelling from London to Leeds to attend a Cabinet meeting. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242116]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The data requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EC Defence Policy: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people who were working on EU military projects in each of the last five years; and how many such people were British. [243907]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have made no estimate of the number of people who were working on EU military projects in each of the last five years.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trained Merlin Mk 3 crews there are in the Royal Air Force. [243451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 30 trained Merlin Mk 3 crew in the RAF. Each crew is made up of four personnel, consisting of a pilot, either a co-pilot or navigator and two crewmen.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on commissioning research into the potential health effects on children and grandchildren of nuclear test veterans of their forebears' exposure to radiation during tests; and if he will make a statement. [243820]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Following an offer I made during the adjournment debate on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 417, I met with the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) and my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) and members of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association on 29 October to discuss the possibility of a new MOD-funded study on health experiences particularly in relation to offspring. Officials have been discussing the scientific and ethical issues relevant to such a study with the BNTVA and scientific advisers and I hope to be able to make an announcement in the new year.

Falkland Islands: Land Mines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on de-mining operations in the Falkland Islands; when he expects the Falkland Islands to be cleared of mines; what the reasons are for the length of time taken to complete the de-mining operations; and how many people have been injured by landmines in the Falkland Islands in the last 10 years. [242815]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the mine-clearing operation in the Falkland Islands to be completed. [242873]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the Ottawa convention, the UK is required to clear all anti-personnel mines from its territory by March 2019, having recently secured a 10 year extension to the original 2009 deadline. Our request for an extension was based on the Joint UK-Argentine Feasibility Study completed in October 2007 that concluded de-mining is technically feasible but presents significant challenges and would take at least 10 years to complete. Based on the findings of the feasibility study we have recently decided to proceed with the clearance of three mined areas in the Falkland Islands. The variety of terrain they cover will serve as a means of testing the environmental and ecological impact of de-mining, which are significant factors of concern. The results from these areas will be valuable in informing future work.

In accordance with article 5 of the convention all mined areas have been perimeter marked, regularly monitored and protected by fencing to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians. I am pleased to say that there have been no mine casualties in the 25 years since the conflict.

Falkland Islands: Warships

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of the Falkland Islands and *(b)* others on the withdrawal of HMS Northumberland from the Falkland Islands; what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Falkland Islands; how many troops are stationed in the Falkland Islands; and what plans he has for the redeployment of HMS Northumberland. [242816]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Falkland Islands Government was briefed over the decision to deploy HMS Northumberland on an EU anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa and deploy RFA Largs Bay to the South Atlantic. Consultations also took place between my Department and the FCO.

HMS Northumberland is one constituent part only of a comprehensive package of air, land and maritime assets that together maintain our deterrence posture on the Islands. This deterrence force is kept under regular review and can be reinforced quickly should the need arise. In November 2008, there were some 1,300 members of the armed forces based in the Falkland Islands. This figure varies during the year due to individual posting plots and unit moves.

While it is UK Government policy not to comment in detail on the current threat to the Falkland Islands or the future disposition of UK forces, the UK Government remain fully committed to the defence of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories, including the Falkland Islands.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on negotiations with the Government of Iraq on the stationing of British forces in the country after 31 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [243259]

Mr. Hutton: The UK and the Government of Iraq are negotiating a legal framework to allow UK forces to continue to provide the assistance requested of us by Iraqi authorities, laying the foundations for a long-term normalised bilateral relationship. Negotiations are continuing and we are aiming to reach an agreement prior to the expiry of UN Security Council Resolution 1790 at the end of 2008. We continue to discuss our respective legal requirements with the US and other coalition partners.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he made of the security situation in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [242817]

Mr. Hutton: In Iraq, the overall security situation continues to improve, with violence now down to levels last seen in 2003. In Basra, the Iraqi Security Forces are maintaining the significant security gains achieved over the course of 2008.

In Afghanistan, considerable progress has been made but the insurgency remains resilient. The majority of people can go about their daily lives but in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east, significant security challenges remain. The Taliban have failed using conventional tactics and are turning to increasingly indiscriminate attacks, which show complete disregard for the safety of the local population.

Iraq: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in the last year he has visited *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [242818]

Mr. Hutton: Since taking up post as Secretary of State for Defence on 3 October 2008, I have visited both Iraq and Afghanistan once, between 18 and 23 October. My predecessor made a number of visits to both countries as detailed in the table:

Operational visits to Iraq and Afghanistan	*Date of visit*
Afghanistan	7 to 10 December 2007
Iraq	10 to 14 March 2008
Iraq	22 to 23 May 2008
Afghanistan	24 to 25 May 2008
Afghanistan	6 to 8 August 2008

Met Office

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the market value of the Met Office. [242782]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Net Book Value of the Meteorological Office's assets as set out in its 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts is approximately £206 million. I am withholding information on the estimates of the market value of Meteorological Office, as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Military Aircraft

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the status is of the Helix Programme to update the United Kingdom's large aircraft capability; and if he will make a statement; [241520]

(2) what factors underlay his Department's Project Helix decision to replace three Nimrod R1 aircraft with US RC-135 Rivet Joint Boeing jets instead of procuring the BAE Systems MRA4; what assessment he has made of the future of the BAE Systems Woodford production plant and aerodrome beyond 2012 as a result of his Department's decision; and if he will make a statement; [241521]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of revamping the R1 fleet in comparison with using the BAE Systems MRA4 platform; and if he will make a statement; [241522]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of any operational benefits of the MRA4 replacement option for the Royal Air Force in terms of *(a)* capability, *(b)* in-service date and *(c)* value for money; and if he will make a statement; [241523]

(5) what the total cost of the replacement of three 35-year-old Nimrod R1 aircraft based at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire with 46-year old US RC-135 Boeings is expected to be; and if he will make a statement; [241524]

(6) what factors underlay his Department's decision to procure 46-year-old US RC-135 Boeings to replace three 35-year old Nimrod R1 aircraft based at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire. [241525]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for International Defence and Security gave on the HELIX programme in another place on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column WA28, to the noble Lord, Lord Lee of Trafford.

No decisions have been made on the HELIX programme. We are comparing the three options under consideration—Nimrod R1 aircraft, tailored Nimrod MRA4 aircraft and the US Rivet Joint system. This work will inform the main investment decision point, expected to be in 2009. In reaching a conclusion we will take into account all relevant factors including costs, impact on the defence industrial base and operational benefits in terms of capability, in-service date and value for money, as well as other criteria.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the risks involved in stripping down military aircraft as part of his Department's procurement projects. [242412]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The assessment of project risk is an intrinsic part of the procurement process during the concept and assessment phases. Refurbished, as well as new aircraft are assessed against the same standards, rules and regulations.

Military Bases

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to minimise the impact of military bases have on their surrounding environment, with particular reference to naval ports. [242376]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD uses tools and policies such as sustainability and environmental appraisals and site based environmental management systems (EMS), to ensure that military bases (including naval bases) are managed to reduce their environmental impacts, and meet any legal and regulatory requirements. Full information and guidance on MOD environmental management tools and policies is contained within the MOD Sustainable Development and Environmental Manual JSP 418, which is available on the MOD website at:

www.mod.uk.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 904W, on nuclear weapons, whether beryllium was used in the nuclear trials codenamed *(a)* Hurricane, *(b)* Totem, *(c)* Mosaic, *(d)* Buffalo, *(e)* Grapple, *(f)* Antler, *(g)* Grapple X, *(h)* Grapple Y and *(i)* Grapple Z. [241999]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I can confirm that Beryllium was used in the nuclear trial series codenamed Hurricane, Totem, Mosaic, Buffalo, Grapple, Antler, Grapple X, Grapple Y, and Grapple Z.

Pakistan: al-Qaeda

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department was informed by the Pakistani government of the possibility of a US air strike on the village of Ali Khel before 21 November 2008. [243426]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence was not informed by the Pakistani Government of the reported air strike on Ali Khel before 21 November 2008.

Princess Royal Barracks

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* each board of inquiry and service inquiry into the deaths at Deepcut Barracks of (i) Private Sean Benton, (ii) Private Cheryl James, (iii) Private Geoff Gray and (iv) Private James Collinson and *(b)* each recall service inquiry into the deaths of Private Gray and Private Collinson cost, broken down by each category of cost, including transport and expenses. [243366]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* number of sitting hours and *(b)* duration was of (i) each board of inquiry and service inquiry into the deaths at Deepcut Barracks of (A) Private Sean Benton, (B) Private Cheryl James, (C) Private Geoff Gray and (D) Private James Collinson and (ii) each recalled service inquiry into the deaths of Private Gray and Private Collinson. [243367]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the case of the Private Gray Board of Inquiry (BOI), the board took evidence over 20 days; and the reconvened board took evidence over one day. In the case of the Private Collinson BOI, the board took evidence over six days; and the reconvened board took evidence over one day. In neither case were the number of sitting hours recorded.

We do not hold information on the duration of the BOIs into the deaths of Privates Benton or James.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* witnesses were called and *(b)* statements were considered at (i) each board of inquiry and service inquiry into the deaths at Deepcut Barracks of (A) Private Sean Benton, (B) Private Cheryl James, (C) Private Geoff Gray and (D) Private James Collinson and (ii) each recalled service inquiry into the deaths of Private Gray and Private Collinson. [243368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 10 witnesses gave oral evidence to the Private Benton Board of Inquiry (BOI) and three additional statements were considered by the board.

11 witnesses gave oral evidence to the Private James BOI and nine additional statements were considered by the board.

35 witnesses gave oral evidence to the Private Gray BOI and two additional statements were considered by the board. One witness was recalled by the reconvened board.

14 witnesses gave oral evidence to the Private Collinson BOI and one additional statement was considered by the board. One witness was recalled by the reconvened board.

Supply Estimates

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 on the same basis as in his answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 168W. [243416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Tornado Aircraft: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Tornado aircraft to be deployed in Operation Herrick to achieve that final operating capability. [240498]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: The Tornado GR4 aircraft will meet the middle east theatre entry standard on deployment to Op Herrick and is currently undergoing a programme of capability enhancement. As with the Harrier GR9 the Tornado GR4 capability will remain under constant review in theatre to ensure that it is optimised to meet the evolving operational requirement.

Trident

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a decision to be taken on the initial Gate Report on the Trident replacement programme; whether the House will make any such decision; and if he will make a statement. [240802]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: As we have said before, it is our expectation that decisions will be taken on the Initial Gate for the programme to develop a new class of submarine to replace the current Vanguard class in autumn 2009. It is not normal for Parliament to be involved in Initial Gate decisions for procurement projects. Main Gate for this programme is still several years away. As we have also said before, we propose to update Parliament on progress after Initial Gate.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the brief provided by Major Peter Underhill to KPMG in relation to Olympic shooting venues. [240438]

Tessa Jowell: Major Peter Underhill is the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games' competition manager for shooting. KPMG was instructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority to assist in the evaluation of the options analysis for a number of temporary venues. As announced after the Olympic Board in November, the KPMG report will be published. However, we do not yet have a final copy of the report and there are no plans for specific discussions between KPMG and any other parties to be published.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on representations received on the venue for shooting sports at the London 2012 Olympics. [242081]

Tessa Jowell: I will discuss with the Secretary of State for Defence as soon as the conclusions of the KPMG review are finalised. Our officials meet regularly to discuss matters relating to Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks.

Olympic Games 2012: Marketing

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her policy is on the authorisation and use of the community brand for the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [243212]

Tessa Jowell: The Inspire Mark is awarded by London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the IOC the first time a host city has been accorded this to high-quality fully funded non-commercial projects and programmes which have been clearly inspired by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and which achieve across sport, culture, education, the environment, volunteering or promoting business opportunities. Projects and programmes licensed to use the mark specify in the application process the manner in which they wish to use the mark on promotional material.

Olympic Games 2012: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment has been made of the legacy of the forthcoming London Olympics for the North East. [242375]

Tessa Jowell: We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone in the UK can be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We aim to do this through cultural events across the country, more opportunities to take part in sport and to be physically active, and a range of volunteering, jobs and skills initiatives as well as business opportunities. The Legacy Action Plan which I published in June sets out more details on how we propose to deliver this vision.

I am also keen for regions to identify what is important to them. At a regional level this work is being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) who are working hard to optimise local benefits of the Games. The north-east representative is Peter Rowley, chair of the Regional Sports Board. The north-east launched its regional plan to maximise the benefits of the Games on 18 July 2007. This can be found on the North East Regional Development Agency website:

http://www.onenortheast.co.uk/lib/liDownload/13895/Regiona_Plan_FINAL.lnk.pdf?CFID=2523889&CFTOKEN=11473987

Progress on legacy in the north-east is already being made. Of the 23 eligible local authorities in the north-east, 16 have agreed to offer free swimming to those aged 16 or under and seven have agreed to offer free swimming to those aged 60 or over only. 19 Olympic and eight Paralympic facilities from the north-east are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide; 40 events took place in the region during the Cultural Olympiad 'Open Weekend' and 22 special 'handover flags' were raised. Additionally, 97 schools and colleges in the north-east hosted Paralympic Games-focused activities for children and young people as part of Paralympic handover celebrations.

Furthermore, St. James' Park, Newcastle (home of Newcastle United) will experience first hand the excitement of Games activity by hosting rounds of the football competition during 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: VAT

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the impact of introducing a lower rate of value added tax on the overall costs of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [241660]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority expects to save £25 million as a result of the temporary reduction of the standard rate of VAT to 15 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the availability of housing and housing materials for refugees in Afghanistan who have been repatriated from Iran and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [242197]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Reliable nationwide data on housing for refugees are not available. However, in the eastern region more than 10,730 returning families (over 59,800 people) required shelter support from UNHCR in 2008. This amounts to approximately 35 per cent. of the total returning to the region. Eastern Afghanistan received 63 per cent. of all refugee returnees in 2008.

There is no shortage of building material for Afghan housing, usually constructed of mud and bricks. However, there is a shortage of skilled labour and this, coupled with rising material costs and the high number of refugees returning (over 275,000 in 2008), is slowing the rebuilding process.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the Answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2177W, on Commonwealth scholarships, if he will list the contribution his Department *(a)* made in each of the last five financial years and *(b)* plans to make in financial years (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 to UK programmes for overseas scholars. [240677]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Contributions to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission from the Department for International Development (DFID) for the past five financial years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	10,855,042
2004-05	16,552,820
2005-06	12,426,319
2006-07	14,427,032
2007-08	14,397,405

DFID plans to provide the following funding over the next three financial years to Commonwealth Scholarships:

	£
2008-09	15,930,000
2009-10	17,430,000
2010-11	17,500,000

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource accounts codes and usage descriptions together with the amount of expenditure for each account code for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [241115]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 755-6W to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott).

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many business class, work-related flights taken by members of his Department's staff through the flexible travel scheme were *(a)* eligible for downgrade to economy class and *(b)* downgraded to economy class in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [241216]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on the staff restaurant subsidy at his Department in each of the last three years. [241116]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The subsidy for the last three years is as follows:

	£
2005-06	194,393
2006-07	215,978
2007-08	146,026

Departmental Databases

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of his Department's Performance Reporting Information System for management databases. [242757]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Performance Reporting Information System for Management is a multi-tiered database system with interdependencies on other internal DFID systems. It is therefore too complex to be made available as an electronic copy in the Library.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240981]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) published its Disability Equality Scheme on 4 December 2006. The scheme includes an action plan to turn commitments into practice. The scheme and action plan is helping DFID promote equality for disabled people as an employer, a service provider and an organisation that can use its influence within the wider field of international development.

DFID holds the Jobcentre Plus 'Two Ticks' disability symbol which promotes the recruitment and retention of people with disabilities. We also have in place a Disability Champion and a strengthened Disability Forum Network. Priority has been given to delivering consistent messages across DFID to raise greater awareness among managers and staff of disability issues. As a result staff are beginning to feel comfortable about declaring their disability, with a 10 per cent. rise in self-declaration over the last 18 months.

Overall DFID has made significant progress in promoting disability equality in the past year. DFID recognises a need to do more. A central diversity team will continue to monitor progress against the action plan and report on progress in DFID's 2008-09 Annual Diversity Report, to be published in March 2009. DFID will review its Disability Equality Scheme once the Single Equality Bill becomes an Act.

DFID's Disability Equality Scheme can be found at www.dfid.gov.uk.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242134]

Mr. Michael Foster: Reporting the number staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) who undertook the funded courses *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Approximately 100 sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing further and higher education. Information on the number and grades of staff undertaking such courses is not held centrally.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241955]

Mr. Michael Foster: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department for International Development's (DFID) internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department are responsible for brand management and marketing; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [240387]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) employs eight full-time equivalent staff who are responsible for a wide range of marketing and communication activities. The cost of employing these staff in financial year 2007-08 was £378,645.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's contracts went to UK companies in the latest period for which figures are available. [241906]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has funded at or above the value of £100,000 for each of the last three years. [241263]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Data on Department for International Development (DFID) projects are available through two international portals: the AiDA Development Gateway and the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Each portal can be assessed through the following links:

AiDA—http://aida.developmentgateway.org/index.do

CRS—http://stats.oecd.org/WBOS/Index.aspx?DatasetCode=CRSNEW

There are plans to publish more detailed information about individual DFID projects in a database on the DFID website during 2009.

Departmental Training

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* cost, *(b)* location, *(c)* duration, *(d)* purpose, *(e)* number of attendees and *(f)* date was of each of his Department's staff retreats in each of the last three years. [241114]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 199W.

Kashmir: Overseas Aid

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the British Red Cross on the provision of humanitarian aid to Indian-administered Kashmir. [242450]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has regular dialogue with the British Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on key humanitarian emergencies around the World.

During Gareth Thomas's meeting with Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC, on 7 September 2008 there was no reference to the access of humanitarian aid to Indian-administered Kashmir. Official dialogue with the British Red Cross have focused on their programmes with partner national societies and have not involved discussion on Kashmir.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what safeguards his Department has put in place to make sure that where direct budgetary aid is given *(a)* the money is correctly spent and *(b)* it does not lead to the substitution of other Government expenditure which has not been approved. [241907]

Mr. Michael Foster: Budget support is only used where the recipient government is committed to reducing poverty, upholding human rights and other international obligations and strengthening public financial management, promoting good governance and transparency, fighting corruption.

We protect our funds in three ways:

We assess the risks carefully and have our assessment checked by external experts.

We ensure that governments have a credible reform programme to improve their systems; and provide technical support to help them.

We use safeguards to prevent misuse of funds; e.g. procurement approval by someone outside of the national systems, additional audits of particular sectors or tracking money from the Ministry of Finance to make sure it gets to the right places.

We monitor government budgets and expenditure carefully every year to make sure that money is spent according to their plans and priorities. We look at the whole budget and all areas of expenditure. We look not just at the amounts governments spend but also the proportion of their budgets—for example we look at whether health and education is going up, not just in absolute terms but as a percentage of total government expenditure. If governments go off-track with their spending plans we raise these issues at the highest levels. If necessary we reduce or suspend support or deliver it in a different way.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's projects are re-visited after completion but during the expected life of the project to ensure they are still functioning and maintained properly. [241910]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All of the Department for International Development's (DFID) projects over £1 million are required to have a logical framework, detailing objectives and expected outcomes. A formal assessment of progress against the logical framework is carried out annually. At the close of a project, a project completion report assesses achievement against this framework and identifies lessons learned to improve future effectiveness and value for money.

DFID does not set a specific percentage for coverage of post-completion assessments, but post-completion impact and sustainability of major individual projects is assessed when undertaking country programme evaluations (CPE), thematic and policy evaluations, with up to 25 reports produced annually. CPEs are timed to influence future country/regional plans and approaches to results management; they are carried out by independent consultants who have a final say on content. Follow up to evaluation recommendations are tracked and reported on annually to the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI), who regulates DFID's evaluation work programme to assure quality and independence.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the Answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 655W, on Gulf of Aden: piracy, if he will provide a breakdown of the £25 million allocated by his Department to support efforts to tackle the instability in Somalia which creates the conditions allowing piratical activity to flourish. [240674]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £30 million to Somalia this financial year to address poverty and humanitarian needs which underlie the instability in Somalia. The £25 million referred to by the Foreign Secretary has since been supplemented.

So far this financial year DFID Somalia has disbursed its allocation as follows:

£2,792,000 on governance, including support for the successful completion of voter registration in three districts to date in preparation for the 2009 Somaliland presidential elections;

£1,568,000 on education, including helping to increase enrolment in Somaliland from 40,000 to 70,000 through the distribution of school textbooks and the provision of alternative education programmes;

£1,235,000 on health, including combating malaria in Somaliland through the distribution of 120,000 bed nets, and improving health care in Gedo region of South Central Somalia through the rehabilitation of three district hospitals;

£1,021,000 on livelihoods, including training of 180 female entrepreneurs;

£10,098,000 on humanitarian assistance, including food support to the equivalent of 83,000 individuals over the last four years.

A further £500,000 from the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool has been spent in helping the parties implementing the Djibouti Peace Agreement.

Southern Africa: Cholera

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the extent of the spread to *(a)* Botswana and *(b)* South Africa of the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe; and how many people are estimated to be affected by the disease in each of these countries. [242804]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to the World Health Organisation figures, as of 8 December only two cholera cases have so far been reported in Botswana. In South Africa, more than 500 Zimbabweans with cholera have been treated, with 10 deaths reported.

St Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to attract investment to St Helena. [240877]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

St Helena: Airports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what provisions his Department has made for funding the construction of an airport on the island of Saint Helena; and if he will make a statement. [240862]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the financial cost of constructing an airport on St Helena. [240867]

(3) what recent discussions his Department has had with officials from St Helena on the construction of an airport on the island. [240868]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of humanitarian organisations operating in Zimbabwe on the cholera outbreak in that country; and if he will make a statement. [242792]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) officials in Harare are in daily contact with organisations responding to the current humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. We are pressing hard for a well coordinated and effective response. The cholera outbreak has come on top of a protracted food crisis and has revealed the full extent to which basic services in Zimbabwe have now collapsed.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who have died in Zimbabwe as a result of the cholera outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [242805]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to the United Nations (UN), by 8 December there had been 13,960 cases of cholera with 589 deaths reported in Zimbabwe. These figures account for those who report at treatment centres or whose deaths are reported to the authorities, and can be assumed to be an underestimate of the real number of people affected.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Amusement Arcades: Coastal Areas

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking in response to recent job losses within the seaside arcade sector; and if he will make a statement; [241435]

(2) how many seaside arcades have closed since September 2007; [241487]

(3) what steps he is planning to take in response to the downturn in seaside arcades since the introduction of the Gambling Act on 1 September 2007; [241488]

(4) what recent assessment his Department has made of the impact of regulatory costs of the Gambling Act 2005 on seaside arcades. [241489]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We recognise that for a variety of reasons, seaside arcades are facing a challenging operating environment. The Gambling Commission has advised that whilst up to date figures on the number of arcade closures in seaside resorts are not available, it estimates that around 170 arcade premises in seaside or other locations have stopped trading since September 2007.

The Department has also received representations from the British Amusement and Catering Trade Association (BACTA) which suggest that an estimated 853 jobs in the wider arcade sector have been lost since July 2007.

That is why we brought forward the stakes and prize review for category C and D gaming machines—to assist family entertainment centres, pubs and machine manufacturers. We have taken account of the industry's responses to our recent consultation which proposed increases in stakes and prize limits for certain categories of C and D machines and will shortly announce how we intend to proceed.

Increasing stakes and prizes is not the sole answer to the problems seaside attractions are currently facing—seaside resorts need to develop their own imaginative ideas to attract visitors. The Government can also play their part and are helping our seaside resorts, as we have shown through our £45 million Sea: Change regeneration programme.

We have made no assessment of the regulatory costs of the Gambling Act 2005 specifically in relation to seaside arcades. However, we estimate that, overall, the new regime has reduced total administrative burdens by around £57 million annually.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what factors underlay the decisions on the treatment of *(a)* bingo halls and *(b)* seaside arcades in respect of entitlement to Category B3 machines; [242400]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the decisions regarding the gaming relief provided for *(a)* the bingo sector and *(b)* seaside arcades; and if he will make a statement. [242401]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department received representations from a number of trade bodies, including the Bingo Association and the British Amusement and Catering Trade Association (BACTA), seeking changes to the regulatory regime for gaming machines established by the Gambling Act 2005 and implemented by secondary legislation from 1 September 2007.

I concluded that there was strong evidence that the economic situation facing the bingo industry is particularly acute with a significant number of club closures in recent months and years. I was also persuaded that a number of special circumstances apply to bingo, including the fact that there is often a high demand for machines during short periods of the day. That is why my Department consulted on a proposal to increase to eight the number of Category B3 gaming machines in bingo halls. The order to implement is subject to affirmative approval in both Houses.

The Government also received strong representations in respect of the challenging economic environment faced by seaside arcades. That is why we brought forward on an exceptional basis the stakes and prize review for Category C and D gaming machines—to assist family entertainment centres, pubs and machine manufacturers. We have taken account of the industry's responses to our recent consultation which proposed increases in stakes and prize limits for certain categories of C and D machines and will shortly announce how we intend to proceed.

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid was allocated for Arts Council England in 2007-08; and how much has been allocated in each year for which projections have been made, broken down by budget subheading. [240337]

Barbara Follett: The grant in aid allocated to Arts Council England (ACE) from DCMS in the period in question is set out in the table, together with allocations by ACE budget subheads. ACE decides its own budget subhead allocations, not DCMS.

Grant-in-aid funding	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Original DCMS funding (£000)	*£411,455 (Actual)*	*£430,905*	*£445,005*	*£458,505*
ACE budget subheads				
RFOs	325,725	335,878	346,911	357,114
Creative Partnerships	31,008	35,730	38,704	39,695
Administration	25,525	24,300	25,000	22,600
CLP	5,635	3,000	3,500	3,500
Free Theatre	0	100	2,400	0
Research	500	500	500	500
Managed funds	29,795	27,538	23,840	37,546
Contingency	720	5,000	4,000	5,000
Capital	0	1,350	1,650	1,550
Find your Talent	0	4,750	9,750	9,800
Grants to individuals	990	—	—	—
Current funding plans	419,898	438,155	456,255	477,305

Additional funding has also been allocated to ACE from other funding sources, which accounts for the difference between DCMS allocation and planned expenditure in each of the financial years set out in the table.

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the Arts Council's funding for regularly funded organisations was provided in grants of more than *(a)* £10 million, *(b)* £15 million and *(c)* £20 million in each year since 1997. [242307]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England and is set out in the table. All Arts Council England funding to regularly funded organisations is grant in aid. The information is only available for the years since Arts Council England's merger in 2002-03; before that year, the Regional Arts Boards were independent bodies and maintained records according to their own systems and requirements.

Proportion of funding to regularly funded organisations in grants of	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
More than £10,000,000	34.3	31.9	30.9	30.2	29.6	29.3	29.1	29.0
More than £15,000,000	16.3	15.0	26.0	25.5	25.0	24.8	29.1	29.0
More than £20,000,000	9.3	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0

Betting Shops

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of visitors to betting shops who visited for the purpose of playing on fixed odds betting terminals in the latest period for which figures are available. [243799]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no such figures available.

Big Lottery Fund: Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund has paid to Cake for public relations services in 2008-09; and how much has been paid for services relating to the Big Thinking consultation. [242420]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund has advised that £45,760.38 has been spent on public relations services provided by Cake in the current financial year (up until 9 December 2008). This includes £19,211.25 for services related to the Big Think consultation.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which charities his Department has provided funding of more than £100,000 in each of the last three years; and how much was provided to each. [242424]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: The Department provides funding to charities through grant in aid, specific grants, strategic commissioning and procurement of services. Payments to charities in the last three years, where the charity received more than £100,000 in any one year, are set out in the following table.

£000

Charity name	*2008-09*[1]	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
NDPBs with exempt charity status			
British Library	69,809	106,608	114,281
British Museum	40,742	45,055	46,605
Imperial War Museum	19,041	22,304	21,034
Museum of London	3	8,826	8,593
National Gallery	17,905	25,798	26,336
National Maritime Museum	16,011	18,636	18,354
National Museum of Science and Industry	31,634	41,484	42,417
National Museums Liverpool	17,766	22,508	23,172
National Portrait Gallery	6,098	7,193	6,771
Natural History Museum	40,318	45,425	47,785
Tate Gallery	50,940	46,097	35,661
The Royal Armouries	6,437	8,917	8,273
Victoria and Albert Museum	33,844	45,954	43,637
Wallace Collection	3,295	4,384	3,324
Registered charities			
Arts Council of England	314,803	425,992	476,552
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	0	0	254
British Red Cross Society	0	0	1,158
Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust	225	455	450
Churches Conservation Trust	2,250	3,062	2,462
Design Museum	414	503	530
Geffrye Museum	1,610	2,215	1,571
Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College	1,500	1,500	1,500
Horniman Museum	3,134	4,358	4,467
Legacy Trust UK	0	6,000	0
Media Trust	245	333	338
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	3,566	4,451	4,886
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	46,489	64,271	52,318
National Children's Bureau	101	152	184
National Film and Television School	2,013	3,013	3,415
National Football Museum	112	144	104
National Foundation for Youth Music	1,133	304	376
Norwich Heritage and Regeneration Trust	312	123	45
Royal National Theatre	0	1	315
Sir John Soane's Museum	1,048	1,389	1,264
Sound Sense	0	218	107
South Bank Centre	661	611	55
The Jerwood Charity	0	30	220
The Work Foundation	0	70	165
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust	0	150	0
Wedgewood Museum	103	142	0
York Museums and Galleries Trust	133	3	0

[1] To 30 November 2008.

Notes:

1. The Department changed its accounting system at the end of 2005-06. Comparative information for 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We have provided year to date figures for 2008-09.
2. For grant programmes that are jointly funded by DCMS and other organisations, only DCMS's share of the funding to the charity is included.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaption strategy. [241173]

Barbara Follett: Following a literature review on the effect of climate change on cultural and sporting assets, the Department is commissioning research to investigate the effects of climate change [illegible] the culture and leisure industries. We will consider what adaptation and mitigation strategies might be needed in light of the findings.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242923]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport no civil servants have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing or deliberately disclosing data stored on departmental equipment or confidential information since 1997.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242139]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) funded the following numbers of staff to undertake courses in the last 12 months:

(a) Undergraduate degrees

A total of 2 staff at Grade B—civil service equivalent SEO/HEO pay band.

(b) Postgraduate degrees or diplomas

A total of three staff (excluding Masters degrees):

one staff at Grade A—Grade 6/7 equivalent pay band;

one staff at Grade B—SEO/HEO equivalent pay band;

one staff at Grade C—EO equivalent pay band.

(c) Masters degrees

A total of 11 staff undertaking MSc or MA degrees:

four staff at Grade A/A(U)—Grade 6/7 equivalent pay band;

five staff at Grade B—SEO/HEO equivalent pay band;

one staff at Grade C—EO equivalent pay band;

one staff at Grade D—AO/AA equivalent pay band.

(d) MBA degrees

A total of one staff at Grade A/A(U)—Grade 6/7 equivalent pay band.

(e) PhD degrees

None undertaken in the last 12 months.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242606]

Andy Burnham: On 4 December 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Gambling

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what definition of *(a)* sports betting and *(b)* gaming his Department uses; and if he will make a statement. [243400]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no specific statutory definition of sports betting, but the definition of betting in section 9 of the Gambling Act 2005 would normally apply. Sports betting is simply betting as defined in s9 where the event or process concerned is a sporting event of some kind.

For "gaming", the relevant definition is in section 6—gaming means playing a game of chance for a prize. The terms "game of chance" and "prize" are further defined in s6(1), which also contains other interpretation provisions.

Gambling Commission: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will ask the National Audit Office to undertake a study into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Gambling Commission. [241490]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission's accounts are audited and approved each year by the National Audit Office. The Commission's set-up project and initial operating period has also been subject to an ongoing Office of Government Commerce Gateway review.

The Gambling Commission was in the first phase of public bodies to undergo a Hampton Implementation Review by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The purpose of such independent reviews is to promote more effective and efficient regulatory activity. Details of the review will be published by BERR in due course.

Museums and Galleries: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Royal Armouries, *(b)* Sir John Soane's Museum, *(c)* Chatham Historic Dockyard and *(d)* the Wallace Collection spent on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [240945]

Barbara Follett: The following information has been provided by the requested organisations and is inclusive of NIC and pensions:

The Royal Armouries

The Royal Armouries inform us that they have spent:

	£
2003-04	66,000
2004-05	92,000
2005-06	0
2006-07	9,000
2007-08	54,000

The Sir John Soane's Museum

The Sir John Soane's Museum inform us that they do not employ any press or communications officers.

Chatham Historic Dockyard

Chatham Historic Dockyard is not an NDPB sponsored by DCMS. However, they have provided the information requested:

	£
2003-04	25,600
2004-05	27,100
2005-06	31,200
2006-07	29,900
2007-08	18,500

The Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection inform us that they have spent:

	£
2003-04	23,400
2004-05	0
2005-06	26,300
2006-07	37,000
2007-08	46,600

Note:

For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

National Lottery: Play

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will extend the deadline for applications for Big Lottery play strategy projects beyond March 2009. [242939]

Barbara Follett: As a lottery distributor, The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) operates independently from DCMS and as such it would be inappropriate for the Department to intervene with the day to day running of BIG.

For Children's Play BIG had four application windows—July 2006, November 2006, March 2007, September 2007. The majority of the applications were received for the final window, i.e. in September 2007. For Playful Ideas the application deadline was December 2007. Therefore all the funding was committed under both these programmes by this year (i.e. funding has been committed over a two year period based on the applications received). Funding for Play Infrastructure was committed in March 2006 when the programme launched.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much per capita was spent from the public purse on sporting infrastructure in each of the last five years. [240334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they have spent the following amounts on capital projects in each of the last five years:

Financial year total	Per capita spend (£)
2003-04	0.01
2004-05	0.33
2005-06	0.28
2006-07	0.53
2007-08	0.76

Population figures source: Office for National Statistics Website, figures as follows:

	Population England (Million)
Mid 2003	49.866
Mid 2004	50.111
Mid 2005	50.465
Mid 2006	50.763
Mid 2007	51.092

This does not include other sources of capital spend on sport, such as local authority spend.

WALES

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241169]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the Programme can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

The Wales Office is covered under the Ministry of Justice climate change strategy.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242918]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since its inception in 1999, the Wales Office have not conducted any investigations on Civil Servants.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241965]

Mr. Paul Murphy: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Wales Office's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242020]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

PRIME MINISTER

Finsbury Ltd.

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last met Roland Rudd in his capacity as a representative of Finsbury Ltd. [243132]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

SCOTLAND

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* Treasury officials on the announced closure of tax offices in Scotland. [242739]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with the Treasury on a range of issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans she has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241176]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment.

Information about the programme, and about my Department's current work to promote adaptation to climate change, is set out at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/programme/across-government.htm

This includes work on planning, new development, housing and resilience and our priorities for future adaptation action. We are also taking part in cross-government work to support local authorities as they mainstream climate risk into their strategies and services and help their communities adapt to climate change.

Community Development: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that disabled people are given support to help them integrate into the communities in which they live, with particular reference to those who live *(a)* in a residential home and *(b)* with their families. [242577]

Mr. Khan: Our White Paper "Communities in Control: real people real power", published in July 2008, describes a variety of ways in which we will be seeking to empower local communities and citizens—including disabled people and other disadvantaged groups, whether living in residential homes or with families—thus enabling them to participate more actively in their communities. These include: a new duty on local authorities to promote democracy, another duty requiring best value authorities to involve people in local decision making, and a local Take Part programme to encourage more people from different backgrounds to engage in civic activities. This document can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol

We also recently published our Secretary of State's report on Disability Equality which highlighted focused action for disabled people and included commitments for further improvements. This can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/disabilityequality2008

Compulsory Purchase

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to keep centrally held records on the number of compulsory purchase orders that have been issued by local authorities. [241428]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. I do not think that the expense would be justified. The Government office for London now has responsibility for considering applications for the confirmation of compulsory purchase orders submitted by English local authorities to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The casework management database includes some basic statistical information such as the number of CPO cases dealt with, the number opposed or unopposed, the number confirmed or refused and the CPO power used. Other types of local authority CPOs are dealt with by the Secretary of State within whose policy responsibility they fall.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing repairs were undertaken by each local authority in each of the last five years; and how much each authority spent on such repairs. [240797]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has collected data on local authority programmes of work through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) since 2001-02. The information held includes the following two categories covering a broad range of activity:

renovation work of a capital nature (installation, replacement and major repair)—we are unable to provide figures for major repairs separately;

renovation work of a non-capital nature (minor repairs/routine maintenance).

Two tables with information for the last five years (2002-03 to 2006-07) have been deposited in the Library.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242142]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the number of staff who were sponsored by the Department in the last 12 months to undertake degree courses up to PhD level. These figures do not include those who were sponsored to undertake professional courses which are equivalent to degree level and above.

Pay band	*Number of staff*
3	2
4	7
5	2
6	2
7	2

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243724]

Mr. Khan: Figures for public information campaigns in the financial year 2007-08 were published in the Department's Annual Report, which is available in the Library of the House and from the Department's website.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 947W, on departmental recruitment agencies, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242311]

Mr. Khan: Since 1 January 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government has recruited 169 temporary staff through recruitment agencies. By company this figure is broken down as:

	Number
Reed	130
Brook Street	15
Morgan Hunt	13
Badenoch and Clark	2
Venn Group	1
Monarch Recruitment	2
Allen Lane	3
Michael Page	2
Sue Hill	1

Figures are unavailable prior to 2008

Details of average length of bookings could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 237W, on trade unions, to which trades union the civil servant was seconded; and when the civil servant was seconded. [242102]

Mr. Khan: The civil servant in question was seconded to Prospect on 16 October 2006.

Empty Property: Business Premises

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many business premises have qualified for empty property rates relief in each of the last five years. [241810]

John Healey: Details of the value of empty property relief granted from national non-domestic rates in England in the last five financial years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 were published in a statistical release on 17 September 2008 and are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr078o.htm

Information on the numbers of properties qualifying for relief is not available centrally.

Fire Services: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the state of readiness of the fire and rescue services to respond to incidents of flooding. [242781]

Mr. Khan: At the local level, fire and rescue authorities have duties to conduct risk assessments of their area as part of their integrated risk management planning process. This complements work under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, where local responders collectively consider risks, through local resilience forums. If it is concluded that there is a risk of flooding in that area, local responders, including the fire and rescue service, may equip themselves appropriately to meet that risk.

At the national level, my Department has provided the fire and rescue service with 46 high volume pumps, to extract and move significant amounts of water. We have also funded the appropriate level of training to use the high volume pumps. The high volume pumps have been used to great effect during floods.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with fire and rescue authorities on their contingency plans in the event of a national firefighters' strike; and if she will make a statement. [242389]

Mr. Khan: The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 lays down duties for specified "Category 1 responders", including fire and rescue authorities, to assess, plan and advise in relation to emergencies. For a fire and rescue authority, an emergency includes a period of industrial action. Contingency planning matters are raised from time to time with Ministers and officials by representatives of fire and rescue authorities. No discussions are currently in hand with any individual authority regarding national industrial action.

Homelessness: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people in each local authority area affected have not yet returned to their homes following the floods of summer 2007; [241086]

(2) how many people who have not yet returned to their homes following the floods of summer 2007 are still living *(a)* in caravans, *(b)* in hotels, *(c)* in bed and breakfast accommodation, *(d)* in temporary accommodation and *(e)* with relatives in each local authority area. [241087]

John Healey: As at 17 November 2008, we estimate, based on local authority returns, that 1,040 households remain wholly or partially displaced from their homes following the floods of summer 2007. We estimate that 118 of these households were living wholly or partially in caravans. A breakdown of the figures by local authority area and an accompanying press notice is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1086343

Approximately 100 households have been returning each week between the end of June and the middle of November and on that basis we expect around 500 households will not be fully back in their homes by Christmas, most of these for specific reasons, including: extra work such as extensions being done at the same time, delays starting repair work (for example because suitable contractors weren't available); the need to wait for drying out to complete before work could begin; problems with builders; difficulties with insurers; and, remedial work needing to be re-done.

However, the good progress in the long haul of flood recovery means almost 19 out of 20 households displaced by the floods of summer 2007 floods will be fully home by Christmas. That figure compares well to the Carlisle floods in 2005 when one in 10 were still out of their homes after 18 months. Nevertheless, I recognise it is no consolation to those still displaced and I will continue to work with local authorities and the insurance industry to ensure that the momentum in getting people home is maintained. I am particularly concerned about families still living in caravans and I have linked up with council leaders in the most affected authorities to offer additional support to help those households over the Christmas period.

The Department does not collect information on other types of alternative accommodation in which those still displaced from their homes may be living.

Homelessness: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are in temporary accommodation in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire. [242675]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals. Hemel Hempstead constituency lies within the Dacorum local authority.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of dependent children (or expected children) in these households is also collected, but data on the number of adults are not. The latest (end September 2008) figures for total households and total children reported by the Hertfordshire authorities are shown in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Households in temporary accommodation, and number of children within these households (as at 30 September 2008)

Local authority	*Total households in TA arranged by authority*	*Total children (and expected children) within these households*
Broxbourne	57	—
Dacorum	13	8
East Hertfordshire	43	45

Table 1: Households in temporary accommodation, and number of children within these households (as at 30 September 2008)

Local authority	*Total households in TA arranged by authority*	*Total children (and expected children) within these households*
Hertsmere	59	90
North Hertfordshire	47	44
St Albans	70	79
Stevenage	117	142
Three Rivers	26	36
Watford	75	93
Welwyn Hatfield	103	64

'—' signifies data not reported by authority.

Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households will be assisted each year as part of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [243755]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of a much wider package of real help for homeowners, the recently announced Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme will enable ordinary hard working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee to lenders they will get the payments back in return for them participating in the scheme.

We are not setting a limit or a target for the number of households this scheme can help—this is a consumer and lender-led scheme, backed up by a Government guarantee. We want to see this scheme help as many households as possible.

Housing: Low Incomes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities *(a)* have retained direct ownership and management of their social housing stock, *(b)* have transferred housing to a registered social landlord and *(c)* use an arm's-length management organisation to manage their social housing stock. [242086]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* Of the 354 district and single tier local authorities, 170 have transferred all of their housing stock to a registered social landlord, with six more planning to do so. 112 have direct management of their stock and are not on the transfer or ALMO programme. 66 authorities have an Arms Length Management Organisation, of which 15 have also transferred some of their stock to one or more registered social landlords.

Housing: Overcrowding

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in her Department's £15 million programme to pilot measures to tackle household overcrowding. [243348]

Mr. Iain Wright: This year we have established 38 overcrowding pathfinder areas (all London boroughs, Birmingham, Bradford, Leicester, Liverpool and Manchester). Each pathfinder has received £110,000, this financial year, to enable them to collect more robust data on overcrowding and develop strategies and action plans to tackle overcrowding.

Pathfinders are doing this by building on some of the lessons learnt from pilot projects in London which sought to make better use of existing stock through reducing under occupation, better use of the private rented sector and offering housing options to mitigate the effects of overcrowding. We will be seeking progress reports from pathfinders before the end of the financial year.

We will shortly look at options for taking forward the pathfinder programme in 2009-10.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to assist low income homeowners of state pension age to carry out home maintenance and renewal works. [243940]

Mr. Iain Wright: We published "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods—A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society" earlier this year, which addresses the housing and related service needs of older people. This includes initiatives for the promotion and development of better home repairs and adaptations services. Additional funding of over £30 million from 2009 will go to support local agencies, such as home improvement agencies, to help older people with minor repairs and adaptations.

£10.2 billion has been allocated by my Department for 2008-11 for regional housing capital programmes, including those which address the condition of private sector housing stock. Of this, almost £2 billion is for improvements and regeneration to the existing stock (both local authority owned and private sector). We have issued guidance to regional assemblies which asks them to continue to prioritise those most in need with the expectation that packages of assistance including grants, loans, and equity release schemes are made available to individual homeowners.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (the RRO) local authorities have a great deal of flexibility and freedom in providing discretionary assistance for repairs and adaptations. It is also for the local authority to decide the circumstances in which to give discretionary assistance, what form that assistance may take (e.g. grants, loans, equity release schemes etc.) and what, if any, conditions to attach.

Central Government do not prescribe the exact manner in which these powers are used but we expect local authorities to offer packages of assistance to householders, taking into account local priorities, the individual circumstances of the applicant and the resources available to the local authority, we have said that we expect support to continue to go to those most in need.

In addition, the Government's Supporting People programme allows local authorities to fund handy person schemes for their local area if an authority wishes to do so. The Supporting People ring-fenced grant conditions will be removed from 2009-10 to enable Local Authorities to better meet the needs of vulnerable clients, including older people, by the use of more flexible innovative services.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* house completions and *(b)* house starts there have been in each local authority area in the Thames Gateway growth area in (i) each of the last four quarters and (ii) each of the last four years. [242573]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables show house building starts and completions in each local authority in the Thames Gateway growth area for each quarter in the last four years.

House building starts in the Thames Gateway growth area in each of the last four quarters from 2004-05 until 2007-08

	2004-05					2005-06				
Starts	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	53	189	432	59	733	278	42	27	296	643
Basildon	144	155	64	153	516	127	149	110	124	510
Bexley	43	44	14	14	115	33	45	127	75	280
Castle Point	16	121	19	78	234	34	14	27	71	116
Dartford	110	179	47	86	422	68	91	48	80	287
Gravesham	93	50	52	46	241	128	62	92	559	841
Greenwich	209	278	160	860	1,507	329	196	291	406	1,222
Havering	43	126	198	145	512	66	77	464	159	766
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medway	171	76	67	124	438	125	93	115	53	386
Newham	97	—	67	471	—	352	157	84	—	—
Rochford	49	34	192	19	294	171	52	63	85	371
Southend-on-Sea	42	80	161	34	317	54	34	93	50	231
Swale	121	109	90	172	492	286	240	133	164	823
Thurrock	187	183	168	220	758	288	20	145	168	621
Tower Hamlets	717	377	556	327	1,997	398	1,036	794	190	2,418

	2006-07					2007-08				
Starts	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	322	141	296	16	775	100	16	50	54	220
Basildon	93	90	112	163	458	206	133	215	205	759
Bexley	125	46	75	97	343	37	124	3	25	189
Castle Point	32	21	34	29	116	43	14	33	10	100
Dartford	72	114	105	176	467	256	160	42	131	589
Gravesham	22	26	45	42	135	82	155	120	45	402
Greenwich	15	33	302	16	366	56	72	369	—	—
Havering	94	74	172	124	464	63	125	120	110	418
Lewisham	—	69	99	132	—	30	48	—	110	—
Medway	78	141	51	177	447	212	—	207	141	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	—	—
Rochford	99	18	138	79	334	35	51	49	28	163
Southend-on-Sea	57	56	179	41	333	54	40	233	51	378
Swale	247	344	147	195	933	264	—	273	172	—
Thurrock	16	12	90	108	226	99	15	74	8	196
Tower Hamlets	201	203	227	224	855	212	87	454	151	904

Notes:

1. The Thames Gateway is comprised of parts of 16 local authorities.

2. Figures are as reported by the local authorities and the National House—Building Council. Where local authorities submitted no P2 returns for one or more quarters, no figure has been presented in the quarter or annual total as presenting NHBC information only would under—report the true level of house building completions in the local authority.

Source:

New build starts from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House—Building Council to CLG.

House building completions in the Thames Gateway growth area in each of the last four quarters from 2004-05 until 2007-08

			2004-05					2005-06		
Completions	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	127	126	115	172	576	222	95	84	66	467
Basildon	91	73	88	79	331	111	116	75	99	401
Bexley	103	24	39	55	221	34	27	8	71	140
Castle Point	8	51	77	9	145	15	42	48	71	176
Dartford	133	82	95	70	380	107	65	113	81	366
Gravesham	116	180	192	26	514	52	40	82	103	277
Greenwich	290	639	309	338	1,576	328	189	317	239	1,073
Havering	119	102	166	70	457	222	86	114	64	486
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medway	102	151	76	201	530	99	145	227	91	562
Newham	149	—	230	153	—	222	181	187	—	—
Rochford	19	17	19	38	93	36	20	54	69	179
Southend-on Sea	35	39	119	56	269	60	121	178	35	394
Swale	145	112	99	60	416	71	87	200	132	490
Thurrock	123	123	245	177	668	219	97	334	12	662
Tower Hamlets	1,113	765	950	124	2,952	228	294	330	1,066	1,918

			2006-07					2007-08		
Completions	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	128	148	121	208	605	183	264	108	250	805
Basildon	90	144	89	198	521	80	104	51	495	730
Bexley	21	16	63	112	212	116	40	11	135	302
Castle Point	41	53	103	36	233	11	29	34	20	94
Dartford	131	75	93	98	397	214	168	284	241	907
Gravesham	68	46	33	140	287	48	94	61	35	238
Greenwich	397	347	139	251	1,134	262	217	141	—	—
Havering	250	70	106	224	650	115	227	190	135	667
Lewisham	155	238	175	401	969	55	263	350	464	1,132
Medway	71	—	66	117	226	170	—	170	187	—
Newham	—		—	—	—	—	—	82	—	—
Rochford	126	42	16	178	362	131	48	12	54	245
Southend-on-Sea	66	83	42	23	214	64	108	89	29	290
Swale	189	156	236	156	737	287	—	190	89	—
Thurrock	148	39	403	96	686	6	96	48	29	179
Tower Hamlets	421	632	398	453	1,904	95	384	720	133	1,332

Notes:

1. The Thames Gateway is comprised of parts of 16 local authorities.

2. Figures are as reported by the local authorities and the National House-Building Council. Where local authorities submitted no P2 returns for one or more quarters, no figure has been presented in the quarter or annual total as presenting NHBC information only would under-report the true level of house building completions in the local authority.

Source:

New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Local Authorities: Small Businesses

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities offer assistance to people wishing to establish themselves in business as market traders. [240400]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirement there is for a local authority to consult *(a)* town and parish councils, *(b)* the Lord Lieutenant, *(c)* hon. Members and *(d)* neighbouring local authorities when applying for borough status; what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [242621]

John Healey: The Secretary of State has issued no guidance on this matter. Under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972 a district council may petition Her Majesty the Queen through the Privy Council Office for the grant of a Charter conferring the status of borough. The Privy Council Office seeks the views and recommendation of the Secretary of State as Privy Counsellor with policy responsibility for local government matters. The only statutory requirement which a local authority has to meet in order to present a petition is that the district council must resolve by a two thirds majority of its members in favour of a petition before one can be presented. It is a matter for the district council to decide on whether they consult with parish and town councils, Lord Lieutenants or neighbouring local authorities.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on multiple occupation, which key stakeholders have been consulted in connection with the Building Research Establishment review of the licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation. [241513]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Building Research Establishment (BRE) has consulted all local authorities in England. The BRE has also conducted a series of focus groups with local community organisations and residents groups, including local landlords and tenants. These views will be reflected in the final report on a non-attributable basis.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on multiple occupation: coastal areas, if she will make it her policy to collect data on the take-up rate of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation in seaside towns. [241514]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government collects data from local authorities in England on the processing of applications for licenses for houses in multiple occupation under the provisions of the 2004 Housing Act. These provide total numbers of applications for, approvals and refusals of licenses. No statistics have been produced specifically for seaside towns but statistics for the local authority areas that approximate to seaside towns are shown in the following table.

It is not possible to calculate take-up rates as there is no source for data on the number of licensable properties at local level.

HMO licensing in seaside town local authorities 12 November 2008

Seaside town	*Local authority*	*Number of applications for HMO licenses*	*Number of HMO licenses issued*	*Number of HMO licenses refused*
Bognor Regis	Arun (Part)	69	[1]—	[1]—
Bridlington	East Riding	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Burnham-on-Sea	Sedgemoor	9	8	0
Clacton	Tendring	6	6	0
Dawlish/Teignmouth	Teignbridge	1	1	0
Deal	Dover	20	16	0
Eastbourne	Eastbourne	233	23	0
Exmouth	East Devon (Part)	35	35	0
Falmouth	Carrick	85	84	1
Folkestone/Hythe	Shepway	41	23	0
Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth	55	[1]—	[1]—
Greater Blackpool	Blackpool	107	106	1
Greater Blackpool	Fylde	3	3	0
Greater Blackpool	Wyre	10	10	0
Greater Bournemouth	Bournemouth	621	490	0
Greater Bournemouth	Poole	92	42	0
Greater Bournemouth	Christchurch	1	1	0
Greater Brighton	Brighton and Hove	295	292	0
Greater Brighton	Adur (Part)	4	2	2
Greater Worthing	Arun (Part)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Greater Worthing	Worthing	41	41	0
Greater Worthing	Adur (Part)	[2]—	[2]—	0
Hastings/Bexhill	Hastings	35	15	0
Hastings/Bexhill	Rother	14	13	0
Ilfracombe	North Devon	34	30	1
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	31	[1]—	[1]—
Lowestoft	Waveney	8	6	0
Minehead	West Somerset	6	[1]—	[1]—
Morecambe/Heysham	Lancaster	345	[1]—	[1]—
Newquay	Restormel	498	489	0
Penzance	Penwith (Part)	36	33	0
Saint Ives	Penwith (Part)	[2]—	[2]—	0
Scarborough	Scarborough	30	30	0
Sidmouth	East Devon (Part)	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Skegness	East Lindsey	61	[1]—	[1]—
Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	45	42	1
Southport	Sefton	20	20	0
Swanage	Purbeck	1	1	0
Thanet	Thanet	64	63	1
Torbay	Torbay	92	[1]—	[1]—
Weston-super-Mare	North Somerset	80	78	0
Weymouth	Weymouth and Portland	69	[1]—	[1]—

HMO licensing in seaside town local authorities 12 November 2008

Seaside town	*Local authority*	*Number of applications for HMO licenses*	*Number of HMO licenses issued*	*Number of HMO licenses refused*
Whitby	Scarborough (Part)	[2]—	[2]—	0
Whitley Bay	North Tyneside	8	1	2
Whitstable/Herne Bay	Canterbury	161	[1]—	[1]—
All seaside towns		3,366	2,004	9
England		29,254	19,208	84

[1] Data not yet provided by the local authority

[2] The local authority area covers two different seaside towns. In these cases no attempt has been made to apportion the HMO licence records between the two. The total records for the local authority are therefore shown against the first of the two seaside towns to appear in the list; there is no figure for the second, shown bold.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make an announcement on proposals to allow businesses facing backdated business rates bills more time to pay. [243989]

John Healey: It is intended that a business rates information letter will be issued shortly setting out the further details.

Ordnance Survey: Copyright

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to remove the copyright restrictions imposed by Ordnance Survey on the re-use of its data. [243067]

Mr. Iain Wright: The HM Treasury/Shareholder Executive assessment of trading funds has considered the potential for innovation and growth from increasing commercial and other use of public sector information including Ordnance Survey data. It will shortly publish some key principles for the re-use of this information, and consider how these should be applied to ensure that Government policy is fully reflected in practice.

As part of the assessment, Ordnance Survey is in the process of undertaking a strategic review of its operations and underlying business model. My aim is for Ordnance Survey data to be made more widely available for exploitation for the benefit of the wider UK economy. Further details will be announced in due course.

In the meantime Ordnance Survey will continue to enable users of all types to access a wide range of data through its normal licensing arrangements.

Planning Permission

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of section 106 monies held by each local authority was in each of the last three financial years. [240548]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the value of section 106 monies held by each local authority is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced research reports into the value of planning obligations in England for 2003-04 and 2005-06 based on a sample of authorities across the country. It was estimated that the total value of planning obligations agreed in England in 2003-04 was £1.9 billion and in 2005-06 the estimate had risen to £4 billion. These reports are available on the Department's website. New research covering 2007-08 has recently been commissioned and will be published in summer 2009.

Appropriate openness over the collection and use of s106 monies is an important element of local authority accountability and the Government recommend in planning Circular 05/05 that authorities keep accurate records which can be used to inform the public. In July, the Government announced in the Empowerment White Paper that it will explore whether more can be done to strengthen this local accountability.

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent representations she has received on the planning guidance announced on 26 November relating to flood protection for new developments; and if she will make a statement. [241504]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Long-Term Initiatives for Flood Risk Environments (LiFE) project, which has produced a guide to help planners and architects develop more integrated and sustainable approaches to site design, was funded by DEFRA's flood risk management innovation fund. This fund was established under the Government's Making Space for Water flood management strategy to test new and novel ways for managing flood risk in the future that are sustainable and deliver a range of benefits.

Where the sequential approach set out in Government Planning Policy (PPS25) shows that there are no reasonably available sites in areas with a lower probability of flooding and the need for the development outweighs the flood risk, development may, exceptionally, need to go ahead in flood risk areas. In such cases, PPS25 and its accompanying practice guide emphasises the importance of site layout and design in mitigating the impacts of flood risk. The LiFE guide is a useful contribution towards increasing awareness of flood risk management issues and highlights some potential solutions. It does not however replace current planning policy and guidance set out in PPS25 and the accompanying practice guide.

Public Lavatories: Disabled

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to encourage *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* commercial operators in charge of public places to install Changing Places toilets. [243200]

Mr. Khan: In March 2008 the Department published a Strategic Guide on Improving Access to Better Quality Toilets, which set out the range of powers and approaches that local authorities and their partners can use to improve public access to toilets for all people. This drew attention to the Changing Places campaign, and the importance of providing suitably equipped toilets for people with profound and multiple disabilities, and their carers.

CLG officials also contribute to the work of the British Standards Institute and have been involved in current work on updating British Standard BS8300 "Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people—Code of practice" to provide detailed technical guidance on the design of Changing Places facilities. The revised document is expected to be published in spring 2009.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to implement the recommendations in the Communities and Local Government Committee's Twelfth report of Session 2007-08, HC 636, on provision of public toilets that *(a)* local authorities make appropriate provision for disabled public toilets, taking the British Standard relating to the provision of disabled public toilets as their primary guideline and *(b)* her Department impose a duty on each local authority to develop a strategy on the provision of public toilets in their areas, including consultation with local communities and reviewed annually. [243205]

Mr. Khan: These issues will be covered in the Department's formal response to the Committee's report, which we aim to submit by 12 January 2009.

Regional Ministers: Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements were of *(a)* the Minister for London, *(b)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the Minister for the South East in their roles as regional ministers from 1 November to 30 November 2008. [243473]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is in the following table.

Official engagements for Ministers for London, Yorkshire and the Humber and the South East of England—1 to 30 November 2008

	Outline of visit	*Location*
London		
5 November 2008	Speech at launch of LYCPB London Schools Programme for Safety and Cohesion	Tower of London, City of London
12 November 2008	Meeting with the London Youth Crime Prevention Board	Caxton House, Westminster
19 November 2008	Chaired the London Child Poverty Summit	Lovells, Holborn Viaduct, City of London
20 November 2008	Speech at the London Talent Debate	Excel, Docklands, Newham
25 November 2008	Pre-Budget Report Event	British Chambers of Commerce, City of London
25 November 2008	Speech at the Launch of the London Pledge for Children in Care	The Oval Conference Centre, Lambeth
26 November 2008	Speech at the Thames Gateway Forum	Troxy Theatre, Limehouse, Tower Hamlets
Yorkshire and the Humber		
3 November 2008	Meeting with The Most Reverend and Right Hon. Dr. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York Meeting with Leeds City Region Partnership	York
4 November 2008	Meeting with Chairman Lloyds TSB	London
7 November 2008	Social Inclusion Workshop: Mental Health and Employment Event	Leeds
10 November 2008	Visit to Hull and Humber including meeting with Humber Economic Partnership (HEP), visit to Nisa-Today's Ltd., Humberside Airport, and World Trade Centre Hull	Hull
11 November 2008	Meeting with British Telecom Yorkshire and Humber MPs BT dinner	London
14 November 2008	Meeting with Environment Agency Climate Change Action Plan High Level Meeting Meeting with right hon. John Denham MP and Business Ambassadors Skills Pledge commitment "ceremony"	Leeds
17 November 2008	Yorkshire and Humber Economic Development Group Meetings—Financial Task Force and with MPs and Unions	Leeds and Halifax
20 November 2008	HBOS/Lloyds Public Meeting	Halifax
21 November 2008	East Riding Local Strategic Partnership Conference 2008—Achieving Our Ambition	Bridlington
27 November 2008	Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Event: Short-Term Issues/Long-Term Solutions	York
28 November 2008	Series of engagements for Cabinet visit to the region	Halifax and Leeds
South East of England		
4 November 2008	Hampshire Climate Change Commission	Winchester, Hampshire
6 November 2008	RAISE Conference	Oxford
7 November 2008	Opening of new carpentry workshop	Maidstone, Kent

Official engagements for Ministers for London, Yorkshire and the Humber and the South East of England—1 to 30 November 2008

	Outline of visit	*Location*
10 November 2008	Health Stakeholder Event (Jonathan Shaw attended as both the Minister for the South East and Carers Minister, for which has responsibility as a DWP Minister)	Brighton
10 November 2008	SEEDA Regional Housing Dinner	London
11 November 2008	Meeting with British Telecom	London
12 November 2008	Regional Funding Advice (RFA) meeting	London
13 November 2008	Strategic Skills meeting with John Denham	London
20 November 2008	CBI dinner	London
24 November 2008	South East Economic Delivery Council	London
25 November 2008	Regional Skills Pledge Event—Surrey Chamber of Commerce	Guildford, Surrey
26 November 2008	Thames Gateway Forum Annual Conference	London

Regional Planning and Development: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on regeneration: coastal areas, if she will consider collecting and holding, at central level, information on the work of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships in respect of the principal seaside towns. [241509]

Mr. Khan: We will collect and hold such information in respect of the principal seaside towns as is in line with the principles of measuring success for the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships set out in the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/649026.pdf.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people her Department is employing specifically to deal with representations on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [243595]

Mr. Khan: Most of the Government Office for the South West's planning and housing delivery team of 20 staff, including seven chartered town planners, will deal with representations, but none will be devoted exclusively to Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) work. Work on local development frameworks, casework, New Growth Points and other aspects of housing delivery will continue in parallel with the RSS. The permanent team has been supplemented by three members of staff seconded from the Planning Inspectorate and seven agency staff, who are currently dealing with the responses to the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes for the Regional Spatial Strategy. Numerous staff at the Department of Communities and Local Government Planning Directorate will contribute to assessing options to respond to representations, but they are not expected to deal with individual representations, and none will be devoted exclusively to work on the South West's RSS.

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have applied to introduce selective licensing of the private rented sector under the provisions contained within Part 3 of the Housing Act 2004. [243349]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following local authorities have been granted departmental approval to operate selective licensing schemes under Part 3 of the Housing Act 2004.

Salford City Council

Middlesbrough Borough Council

Manchester City Council

Gateshead Borough Council

Sedgefield Borough Council

Bolton Borough Council and

Burnley Borough Council

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

District of Easington Council

The Department is also currently considering applications for selective licensing from Leeds City Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (second proposed designation).

TRANSPORT

A1

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to consider the merits of dualling of the A1 from Newcastle to East Lothian. [241662]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to consider full dualling between Newcastle and the Scottish border. Two discrete dualling schemes, from Morpeth to Felton and Adderstone to Belford, were considered by the North East Interim Transport Board in 2006 for funding through the central Government Regional Funding Allocation. However in its 2006 advice to Ministers the region concluded that within the resources available these improvements could not be prioritised.

All Regional Transport Boards have been asked to review their Regional Funding Allocation priorities this year. These schemes will be considered by the Region along with others, and this represents an opportunity for supporters of improvements on the A1 North of Newcastle to make their views heard. The Region will submit its advice to Ministers on its priorities early in 2009 for consideration.

A21: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential economic benefits to the East Sussex area of planned improvements to the A21. [243597]

Paul Clark: No assessment has been made of the potential economic benefits at this stage. Consideration will be given to preparation of an economic impact report examining the economic effect of the A21 schemes on the Hastings regeneration area and will be published at the same time as draft Highways Act orders.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timescale is for the Bexhill Link Road Project; when he expects the link road to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [243598]

Paul Clark: The proposed Bexhill to Hastings link road, a local major road scheme being promoted by East Sussex county council, was granted initial Government funding approval in December 2004 with an agreed funding contribution from the Department for Transport of £47.12 million towards the cost of the scheme.

The council has subsequently reported that the estimated total cost of the scheme has increased to £96 million. The council will now need to submit an updated business case to the Department in order that a re-appraisal can be undertaken in accordance with the Department's guidance. This is needed to ensure that the scheme remains value for money at the higher cost before a final decision is taken on whether to provide additional funding.

The council are currently reporting that main construction works could commence in June 2010 with completion in December 2012. However this is subject to the scheme also completing necessary statutory and procurement procedures and also obtaining the relevant funding approvals from the Department before construction could commence.

Biofuels

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the quantity of biofuel to be provided in 2008-09 under the original 2.5 per cent. target under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007; and what estimate has been made of the quantity to be provided in 2008-09 following the amendment to the definition of relevant hydrocarbon oil from April 2009. [242285]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: In the first year of the obligation it was expected that approximately 1.25 billion litres of biofuel would be supplied. As a result of the discrepancy in the RTFO order the Renewable Fuels Agency estimate that around half of the fossil fuel supplied to date may not be obligated. However, the extent of any shortfall in biofuel supplied will not be known until the end of the obligation year.

Blackwall Tunnel: Road Traffic

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on traffic congestion on the Blackwall Tunnel approach roads; and if he will make a statement. [243537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. Congestion on these roads is an operational matter for the Mayor, Transport for London and the relevant borough councils.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in *(a)* Gateshead and *(b)* Sunderland have a concessionary bus pass for over 60 year olds. [243363]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many applications individual authorities have received.

Gateshead and Sunderland are part of the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive (Nexus). The last information held by the Department was that as of 7 April this year Nexus had submitted approximately 222,702 applications for the new smartcard concessionary passes for older and disabled people to their pass supplier.

Buses: London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the cost of *(a)* replacing bendy buses in London and *(b)* the reintroduction of Routemaster buses; and if he will make a statement. [243534]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. The composition, contractual arrangements and costs of the London bus fleet are a matter for the Mayor of London and Transport for London. Government have agreed a generous, long term funding settlement with Transport for London. It is now for them to manage their bus contracts within that funding envelope.

Civil Service: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1568W, on departmental senior civil servants, who is responsible for determining the overall monetary value of bonuses paid to members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department. [242298]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: The total value of bonuses that the Department for Transport may pay to senior civil servants is set by the Government. Individual bonuses within that value, and in accordance with other centrally determined criteria, are determined by the Department's senior civil service remuneration committee.

Dartford Station

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to upgrade Dartford rail station; and if he will make a statement. [243708]

Paul Clark: Dartford station has been identified by the industry as a candidate station for funding from the National Stations Improvement Programme. The final selection of stations will be influenced, among other things, by the extent to which third party funding—from local authorities and the private sector—is secured to supplement the industry's own proposals.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 196W, on departmental air travel, whether figures for 2007-08 have now been calculated. [illegible]

Mr. Hoon: The figures for air mileage for 2007-08 have now been calculated. The domestic flight mileage was 693,997, short-haul mileage was 821,311, and long-haul mileage 1,939,471.

All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 32W, by what means consultants and contractors in the Department for Transport Human Resources are hired other than through competitive tender using pre-negotiated frameworks. [illegible]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Consultants and contractors are generally secured through a competitive procurement process. However, a procurement exercise without a competition may be justified where, for example, compatibility of expertise with existing or previous work is required or where it is known that only one supplier can meet the need.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy on (i) the rail network, (ii) the bus network, (iii) the road network, (iv) air transport, (v) water transport and (vi) other transport in each year since 1997. [242538]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Expenditure by the Department on external consultancy is not held centrally in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure by non-departmental public bodies on external consultancy can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Total expenditure by the central Department and its agencies on consultants in each financial year since it was formed in May 2002 is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
DFT Central	57.2	58.5	65.2	64.0	53.6	51.0
Highways Agency	157.5	169.7	115.0	2.4	1.7	2.0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	4.0	3.4	4.8	1.9	18.0	18.4
Driving Standards Agency	4.2	4.0	3.6	1.2	5.1	3.5
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3.3	3.0	3.4	1.4	3.0	3.7
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5
Vehicle Certification Agency	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Government Car and Despatch Agency (joined DFT from 2005-06)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	227.5	239.5	193.3	72.1	82.9	80.3

The business units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (ie orders raised) and actual spend incurred. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Expenditure figures from 2005-06 exclude central Department and Highways Agency spend on technical transport related consultancy. Expenditure by the Highways Agency on engineering consultancy is scored as outsourced procurement of specialist services.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [illegible]

Mr. Hoon: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on my Department's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1567W, on departmental senior civil servants, how many of the 192 members of the senior civil service in his Department are employed in *(a)* the central Department and *(b)* each of his Department's agencies. [242299]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The number of senior civil servants employed in *(a)* the central Department and *(b)* each of the Department's agencies is set out in the following table:

Organisation	*Number of senior civil servants*
Department for Transport (Centre)	147
Driving Standards Agency	3
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	8
Highways Agency	25
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	4
Vehicle Certification Agency	1
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3
Total	192

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241226]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 604W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242314]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Professional Skills for Government Competency Framework will be rolled out to all grades below the senior civil service across the whole of his Department. [241984]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The Department for Transport competency framework for employees in pay bands 1-7 has already been developed following wide consultation with colleagues and representative groups from across the Department, including the agencies.

The core framework have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Continuous Insurance Enforcement scheme will come into force. [241648]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* We intend to consult on the detailed implementation of the scheme early in the new year and then lay implementing regulations during the course of 2009-10. Full delivery of the scheme is planned to commence in 2010-11.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to ensure that cars are driven only by drivers whose names are included on the vehicle's insurance certificate. [241654]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* No such steps are being taken. A vehicle may be legally driven by any driver whose policy has a clause that allows that driver to drive any other vehicle with the owner's permission (commonly referred to as DOV cover) on a third-party liability basis.

Driving Tests

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what population density figure was used to calculate the distance to the nearest acceptable alternative driving test centre, with reference to each driving test centre which *(a)* has had its closure announced and *(b)* was considered for closure in the last 24 months; and what geographical or constituency boundary was used to calculate the population density in each case. [240285]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has population density criteria travel distance contained in its 'Code of Practice on Written Consultations—Driving Test Centres', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. These criteria are applied in considering each test centre closure. They are:

Indicator	*Population density*	*Distance criteria*
1	Equal to or greater than 1,250 persons per square kilometre	No more than 7 miles
2	Between 101 and 1,249 persons per square kilometre	No more than 20 miles
3	Equal to or less than 100 persons per square kilometre	No more than 30 miles

The population densities applied are for district or unitary authorities. The population density data are from 2004 supplied by the Office of National Statistics and mapped to cover the 1998 structure of local authorities.

Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House listing practical test centres relocated or closed by DSA over the past 24 months and those which DSA has announced will be relocating or closing, showing the population density indicator used in the consideration of the closure.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving tests were taken, and how many new drivers passed their driving test, in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Stockport metropolitan borough council area and *(d)* Cheadle constituency in each year since 1997. [241649]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The Information placed in the Libraries of the House includes tests conducted by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and by non-DSA driving examiners. DSA does not have a test centre in the Cheadle constituency. No motorcycle tests are conducted in the Stockport metropolitan borough council area.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason his Department implemented EU Directive 2000/56/EC to provide that the emergency stop manoeuvre in motor cycle tests must be taken at 31.7mph instead of 30mph; and if he will make a statement. [241570]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* It has been the policy of successive UK Governments to implement EU directives. EU directive 2000/56/EC set extra and more demanding special exercises that must be included in every practical motorcycling test, including:

> at least two manoeuvres executed at slow speed, including a slalom.
>
> at least two manoeuvres executed at higher speed, of which one manoeuvre should be in second or third gear, at a speed of at least 30 kph, and one manoeuvre avoiding an obstacle at a minimum speed of 50 kph.
>
> at least two braking exercises, including an emergency brake at a minimum speed of 50 kph.

These new EU standards necessitated significant changes to the practical motorcycling test undertaken in GB. During public consultation there were overwhelming road safety objections to conducting the higher-speed emergency braking exercise in an environment where there may be pedestrians or other traffic. The case for secure off-road testing areas was conclusive.

The new multi purpose test centres (MPTCs) are based on an updated test centre design that provides modern facilities for local people. MPTCs are attractive buildings which fit comfortably into the local environment. They are fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and also support the Government's wider sustainability agenda.

MPTCs are purpose designed to deliver modern driving test for learner car drivers and motorcyclists and, where possible, they will also be used for the delivery of other types of driving test.

Driving: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) for what reason plastic and paper combination driving licences were given an expiry date different to that of other forms of driving licences; [242652]

(2) what notification drivers are given when their plastic and paper combination driving licences are due to expire; [242653]

(3) what penalty will be applied to drivers who continue to drive without renewing their plastic and paper combination driving licence. [242654]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* A photocard and paper counterpart driving licence is valid for 10 years from the date of issue. This is to ensure that the photographon the photocard remains a current likeness of the driver.

The photocard licence holder will be sent a renewal reminder two months in advance of the date of expiry.

Drivers who fail to renew their photocard licence are liable for prosecution resulting in a fine up to £1,000.

East London Line

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the funding of the phase 2 extension of the East London Line. [243194]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State and Mayor of London meet regularly to discuss the delivery of transport services in London. In addition, Department for Transport officials have held a number of discussions with Transport for London (TfL) regarding East London line Phase 2b. The Department has committed to provide support for more than 50 per cent. of the capital costs of the project. It is now for the Mayor to decide upon the priority he accords to the scheme compared to other transport schemes in London.

Discussions continue with TfL.

External Consultants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what payments the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has made to external consultants in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by payments to (i) management consultancies, (ii) public affairs consultancies, (iii) public relations consultancies, (iv) advertising agencies and (v) other organisations; [241553]

(2) what payments his Department has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241916]

(3) what payments the Driving Standards Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241917]

(4) what payments the Vehicle Certification Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241918]

(5) what payments the Highways Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241919]

(6) what payments the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241920]

(7) what payments the Government Car and Despatch Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies; [241921]

(8) what payments the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has made to external consultancies in each of the last five years, broken down by payments to *(a)* management consultancies, *(b)* public affairs consultancies, *(c)* public relations consultancies, *(d)* advertising agencies and *(e)* other consultancies. [241922]

Mr. Hoon: Total expenditure by the central Department and its agencies on consultants in each of the last five financial years is shown in the following table.

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT Central	58.5	65.2	64.0	53.6	51.0
Highways Agency	169.7	115.0	2.4	1.7	2.0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	3.4	4.8	1.9	18.0	18.4
Driving Standards Agency	4.0	3.6	1.2	5.1	3.5
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	3.0	3.4	1.4	3.0	3.7
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5
Vehicle Certification Agency	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Government Car and Despatch Agency (joined DfT from 2005-06)	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	239.5	193.3	72.1	82.9	80.3

Expenditure figures from 2005-06 exclude Central Department and Highways Agency spend on technical transport related consultancy. Expenditure by the Highways Agency on engineering consultancy is scored as outsourced procurement of specialist services.

Lists have been placed in the Libraries of the House which show the supplier and (where possible) the value and the nature of the consultancy work recorded within the Department and its Agencies accounting systems as consultancy during the four financial years between 2004-05 and 2007-08. Similar data for 2003-04 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Business Units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (i.e. orders raised) and actual spend incurred. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Glasgow Airport: Noise

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received seeking reductions in levels of noise pollution from Glasgow Airport. [243478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: One representation was received from a Member of the Scottish Parliament in February about the flight path of aircraft travelling to and from Glasgow International Airport. The correspondence was passed to the Scottish Government for a response as aircraft noise is an executively devolved matter.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* the model and *(b)* level was of tailpipe emissions of cars owned by the Government Car and Despatch Agency used by (i) members of the Cabinet and (ii) the Leader of the Opposition in the last year for which figures are available; [242898]

(2) what model of Government Car and Despatch Agency car is used by each member of the Cabinet. [242899]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Ministerial Code sets out what cars Cabinet Ministers may use. Currently, they are either a diesel powered Jaguar XJ saloon emitting 214 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre (g/km), a Toyota Prius (104 g/km) or a Honda Civic Hybrid (109g/km). The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not provide an official car to the Leader of the Opposition.

London Underground: Renewable Energy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the potential for using heat produced by the London Underground for power generation; and if he will make a statement. [243586]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is an operational matter for London Underground, Transport for London and ultimately London's Mayor to determine and implement any strategy for the use of waste heat from the underground to produce electricity.

Lorries: Accidents

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents resulting in fatalities or serious injury involved lorries on Britain's motorways in each of the last 10 years. [243185]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents on British motorways involving at least one heavy goods vehicle (HGV) and resulting in fatal or serious injury are given in the table:

	Number
1998	357
1999	389
2000	368
2001	360
2002	353
2003	332
2004	308
2005	319
2006	262
2007	264

Lorries: Inspections

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles which have been stopped for inspection in each of the last three years. [242812]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles inspected in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number of roadworthiness checks	*Number of drivers' hours, tachograph and weight checks*
2005-06	14,839	17,538
2006-07	31,010	27,017
2007-08	31,247	30,421

Note:

Some of the roadworthiness checks and drivers' hours and tachograph checks may have taken place at the same time.

Lorries: Registration

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many registered heavy goods vehicles there were in the UK in each of the last three years. [242814]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total of licensed heavy goods vehicles in the UK in each of the last three years is:

Calendar year	*HGVs licensed*
2005	456,446
2006	471,042
2007	472,096

Motor Vehicles: Navigation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the regulations governing dynamic in-vehicle information systems. [242893]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and information Systems) Act 1989", and Statutory Instrument 865/1990, the "Driver Information Systems (Exemption) Order", are already in the House of Commons Library.

Motorways: Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the accuracy of information conveyed to drivers by means of variable message signs on the motorway network. [241527]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency currently assesses the accuracy of VMS messages in two key ways; customer satisfaction and performance measurement.

The latest customer satisfaction surveys for the period April to September this year tell us that 40 per cent. believe the messages are more accurate than they were a year ago, while only 1 per cent. think they are less accurate. 54 per cent. responded that they were about the same level of accuracy, and 5 per cent. replied that they had not seen a VMS in the period covered.

The Highways Agency measures the accuracy of the setting of VMS. Supervisory staff working in the Highways Agency's control centres assess the accuracy and timeliness of signs in real time and monthly performance indicators are produced. The following are the performance indicators used:

> To set 90 per cent. of signs and signals within three minutes of a traffic officer or police request being received, and change or remove 90 per cent. of signs and signals within two minutes of a traffic officer or police request being received. The current performance indicator score for year to date is 94 per cent.
>
> Achieve 90 per cent. quality compliance for sign and signal setting. The current performance indicator score for year to date is 95 per cent.

Railways: Fares

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average rise in regulated rail fares from Hemel Hempstead to London was in each year since 1997. [242674]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation publishes "National Rail Trends" on a quarterly basis, available at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

This document contains a variety of industry information and statistics including a national fares index.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will postpone fare increases on Southeastern rail services until the ticketing machines are made compatible with Oyster pay-as-you-go cards; and if he will make a statement. [243532]

Paul Clark: Negotiations between the train operators and Transport for London to enable the use of Oyster pay-as-you-go as a payment method for National Rail fares across the London Travelcard area are continuing. There is no association between Oyster pay-as-you-go introduction and fares regulation.

Railways: Kent

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on delivering 12-car trains on rail lines in North Kent. [243531]

Paul Clark: Discussions are continuing between London and Southeastern Railway and Network Rail over the timetable for the introduction of longer trains on the rail lines in North Kent. We hope to make a further announcement during spring 2009.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many and what percentage of scheduled trains based on the *(a)* published timetable and *(b)* plan of the day arrived late in each month of (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008, broken down by train operating company; [242891]

(2) how many and what percentage of scheduled trains based on the *(a)* published timetable and *(b)* plan of the day were cancelled in each month of (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008, broken down by train operating company. [242892]

Paul Clark: Train performance data for the rail network is collected and held by Network Rail, and available from the Chief Executive at the following address:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Railways: Tickets

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that Southeastern carries out efficient ticketing enforcement on its rail services; and if he will make a statement. [243533]

Paul Clark: All train operators are required to implement a structured revenue protection strategy as part of all franchise agreements entered into since 2004. The summer 2007 Rail White Paper included an undertaking to review station gating as the industry's reported figure of 5 per cent. ticketless travel is believed to be an underestimate.

River Thames: Bridges

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status of the proposed Silvertown Link Thames river crossing is; and if he will make a statement. [243538]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This scheme has been proposed by the Mayor of London as one possible option for a new east London river crossing. As such it is a matter for the Mayor and Transport for London and questions about its status should be directed to them.

Roads: Accidents

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other outcomes there were in road traffic accidents in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire reported to his Department in each month in each of the last five years. [242673]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of casualties in reported personal injury road accidents in (i) the parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead and (ii) the local authority of Hertfordshire in each month of the last five years are given in the following tables.

Hemel Hempstead[1]

Number of casualties

Casualty severity	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2003													
Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious	6	5	6	5	3	5	6	5	4	5	8	9	67
Slight	45	41	28	34	39	46	38	34	29	44	38	84	500
Total	51	46	34	39	42	51	44	39	33	49	46	93	567
2004													
Killed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Serious	6	5	8	6	15	1	5	4	5	5	5	4	69
Slight	37	19	53	45	29	37	32	45	33	76	40	56	502
Total	43	24	62	51	44	38	37	49	38	81	45	60	572
2005													
Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Serious	2	1	3	2	5	3	3	2	9	9	9	0	48
Slight	45	37	48	44	35	41	40	37	29	27	49	55	487
Total	47	38	51	46	40	44	43	40	38	37	58	55	537
2006													
Killed	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Serious	2	1	1	7	6	3	3	7	2	2	5	2	41
Slight	30	34	33	33	37	47	42	36	30	44	41	29	436
Total	32	36	34	40	44	50	45	44	32	46	46	31	480

Hemel Hempstead[1]

Number of casualties

Casualty severity	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2007													
Killed	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Serious	7	1	4	2	3	5	4	1	3	5	1	2	38
Slight	35	26	42	36	34	33	35	22	40	40	30	28	401
Total	42	27	48	38	37	38	39	23	43	45	31	30	441

[1] Based on 2004 Parliamentary boundaries

Hertfordshire

Number of casualties

Casualty severity	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
2003													
Killed	4	3	1	3	2	3	4	3	4	2	3	6	38
Serious	55	43	66	43	45	51	60	54	55	52	71	55	650
Slight	472	370	381	411	455	428	476	424	485	541	531	540	5,514
Total	531	416	448	457	502	482	540	481	544	595	605	601	6,202
2004													
Killed	2	5	3	7	3	4	9	4	3	4	1	6	51
Serious	55	47	50	49	64	40	51	68	54	50	56	56	640
Slight	493	330	428	424	418	461	477	430	422	549	506	545	5,483
Total	550	382	481	480	485	505	537	502	479	603	563	607	6,174
2005													
Killed	8	3	6	4	4	7	2	3	5	2	10	5	59
Serious	42	30	42	32	56	52	40	40	44	59	44	40	521
Slight	462	322	407	433	436	398	397	428	434	414	514	550	5,195
Total	512	355	455	469	496	457	439	471	483	475	568	595	5,775
2006													
Killed	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	8	4	7	5	5	43
Serious	32	28	26	29	42	40	44	41	38	45	53	38	456
Slight	386	410	394	336	423	387	395	362	329	456	436	390	4,704
Total	420	439	422	366	468	430	441	411	371	508	494	433	5,203
2007													
Killed	12	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	1	3	4	3	50
Serious	58	28	41	30	38	54	39	34	41	49	43	45	500
Slight	368	329	400	331	418	383	353	382	409	434	351	420	4,578
Total	438	361	445	364	460	441	396	420	451	486	398	468	5,128

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* minor and *(b)* serious road traffic accidents occurred on the A13 between the A405 and the M25 in each of the last 10 years. [242691]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of serious and slight personal injury road accidents reported to the police on the A13 between the A406 and the M25 in each of the last 10 years is given in the table.

Accidents occurring on A13 between A406 and M25: 1998-2007

	Serious	*Slight*
1998	33	188
1999	12	100
2000	27	153
2001	22	119
2002	17	107
2003	30	91
2004	28	122
2005	12	92
2006	16	103
2007	10	97

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on (i) the A127 and (ii) A13 between the M25 and Southend in (A) each of the last five years and (B) 2008 to date. [242692]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of casualties in reported personal injury road accidents on (i) the A127 and (ii) the A13 between the M25 and Southend in each of the last five years are given in the following tables.

(i) Number of killed or seriously injured casualties on the A127: 2003-07

	Severity of Casualty	
	Killed	Seriously injured
2003	11	51
2004	6	35
2005	0	31
2006	6	43
2007	2	23

(ii) Number of killed or seriously injured casualties on the A13 between its junction with the M25 and the junction with the A127 in Southend town centre: 2003-07

	Severity of casualty	
	Killed	Seriously injured
2003	7	49
2004	4	36
2005	1	41
2006	3	38
2007	4	34

The data for year 2008 will be available in June 2009.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported deaths there were in *(a)* North Wiltshire, *(b)* Wiltshire and *(c)* England as a result of traffic accidents in each of the last five years. [243462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatal casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for the last five years in *(a)* North Wiltshire *(b)* Wiltshire and *(c)* England are given in the table:

Number of fatal casualties in North Wiltshire, Wiltshire and England in each of the last five years

	Wiltshire	North Wiltshire	England
2003	49	12	3,004
2004	60	12	2,714
2005	38	8	2,735
2006	41	6	2,695
2007	62	10	2,502

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of road fatalities caused by vehicle equipment malfunction and failure. [244038]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The contributory factors data collected by the police officer at the scene of the incident show that "vehicle defects" contributed to 3 per cent. of fatal collisions in 2007. The contributory factors article is published in 'Road Casualties Great Britain: annual report 2007'. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. The report is also available on the Department for Transport website at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071.

Roads: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic movements there were on the A47 between the Nene Parkway and Paston Parkway in Peterborough in each month since May 2005. [242756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The annual average daily flow (AADF) for the A47 between Nene Parkway (A1260) and Paston Parkway (A15) was 37,100 vehicles in 2005, 40,200 in 2006 and 38,500 in 2007. These figures give an estimate of the number of vehicles travelling along the road on an average day of the year.

The Department does not hold reliable monthly data on the traffic flows for these sections of road.

AADF data for 1999 to 2007 are available from our website

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix/.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional railway carriages he expects to be provided on *(a)* First Trans-Pennine Services and *(b)* Northern Rail as a result of his Department's high level output specification initiative. [242369]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport Rolling Stock Plan, published 30 January 2008, provides an indicative figure for both franchises of 42 additional vehicles for First TransPennine Services and 182 additional vehicles for Northern Rail.

Southeastern: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many enforcement staff were employed by Southeastern at the time that they took over the integrated Kent franchise; how many they currently employ; and if he will make a statement. [243536]

Paul Clark: It is assumed that the question refers to Rail Enforcement Officers. At the start of the Integrated Kent Franchise on 1 April 2006, 29 Rail Enforcement Officers were employed. Currently, the number of Rail Enforcement Officers employed by Southeastern (as of 11 December 2008) is 55.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to bring forward legislative proposals to remove the offence of displaying a UK national flag on number plates; if he will introduce an amnesty for drivers with such number plates in the interim; whether such display will affect the conduct and results of MOT tests in the interim; and if he will make a statement. [243077]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We intend to make an announcement shortly on the way forward. The display of national flags does not affect an MOT test result. Enforcement is a matter for the police, and the evidence we have is that they are using their discretion in this matter.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Electronic Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of consumer confidence in the security of the Government Gateway. [241753]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

There has been no testing of consumer confidence of the security of the Government Gateway. However the Government Gateway produces monthly management information on usage to participating public sector organisations and at least three times a year undergoes an independent IT health check covering application vulnerability and infrastructure security

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* budget for and *(b)* expenditure on Access to Work was in each of the last five years. [243554]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information on the budget and actual spend for Access to Work programme in each of the last five years is provided in the following table.

£ million

	Budget	*Actual spend*
2003-04	n/a	55.8
2004-05	n/a	59.6
2005-06	60.1	59.7
2006-07	63.8	59.8
2007-08	64	75.8

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. Figures exclude Jobcentre Plus admin costs as these cannot be separately identified at a programme level.
2. Budget data are only available for the past three financial years and represent the allocation made at the beginning of the year for internal control purposes. Variances arise when the volumes vary from those anticipated at the planning stage.

Source:

Actual spend data are from respective annual audited accounts.

Carer's Allowance: Overpayments

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are taken to recover overpayments of carer's allowance when the person to whom the claim relates dies and eligibility for the allowance ceases. [242629]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* We recognise that the death of someone being cared for is a difficult time for a carer and that they may need time to sort out the deceased's affairs and to make adjustments in their own life. For this reason entitlement to carer's allowance can continue for up to eight weeks after the disabled person dies.

Overpayments will therefore normally arise only if the Department had not been advised of the death in that period.

Should such an overpayment arise, normal recovery procedures would apply and repayment would be sought from the carer, with repayment rates set to avoid undue hardship.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether each data set for which his Department is responsible is held on *(a)* live system environments, *(b)* backup tapes and *(c)* manual records; at what other locations data are stored; and if he will make a statement. [241303]

Jonathan Shaw: The data sets required to support the services we deliver to customers are stored within the database management systems that support the different applications that deliver the Department's business. The majority of these systems are hosted across two physical data centres and there are extensive backup and recovery regimes and subsystems in place to meet business continuity needs. These backup subsystems use both tape and disc storage.

This comprehensive approach to backup does not require manual records to be maintained within the data centres.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240974]

Jonathan Shaw: The conclusions reached by DWP in fulfilment of the duty can be found in the 'Department for Work and Pensions Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes 2008-2011' which includes an update on the actions that were published in its disability equality scheme in December 2006 and its annual progress report in November 2007. To align with its annual planning and reporting cycles the Department published its revised schemes and progress reports on 29 May 2008, on both its internal and external websites, and we will continue to publish to this timetable in the future.

In addition, the Department published its report on progress towards disability equality made by public authorities in policy sectors led by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 1 December 2008. The actions identified in that report will be incorporated into the next progress reports scheduled for May 2009.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242132]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not recorded centrally and to obtain this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which third parties are responsible for *(a)* managing and *(b)* hosting his Department's IT (i) systems and (ii) infrastructure. [240294]

Jonathan Shaw: Under existing contractual arrangements, EDS provides the Department with IT desk top service integration and management applications maintenance and support and hosting services. BT provides network and telephony services. In addition, the Department sources other IT services from a number of other suppliers.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what policies and procedures his Department has relating to *(a)* change management, *(b)* problem management, *(c)* incident management, *(d)* release management and *(e)* configuration management in respect of departmental computer systems. [241306]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department works with its suppliers to apply comprehensive policies and procedures governing these functions, consistent with the standards established by Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL). ITIL is the industry standard discipline for managing IT operations.

The Department's Corporate Information Technology Directorate provides assurance for the application of these policies and procedures.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to replace the computer system infrastructure of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [241307]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's plans for renewing its computer infrastructure have been pursued since 2005 through its IT Transformation Programme, which has equipped the Department with more resilient and sustainable IT delivering services at lower cost.

Realigned contracts with its IT Service providers, EDS and BT, have delivered data centre rationalisation, server modernisation, new desktops and encrypted laptops for staff and an advanced high capacity data network combining voice and data transmission.

Under these contractual arrangements and building on the transformation, a new data centre will be provided and call centre infrastructure will be replaced.

The Department has announced its intention to hold a series of competitions to replace these existing contracts between 2010-11 and 2015. This will provide a basis for continued modernisation of its computer infrastructure aligned to its strategic IT vision.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to register *(a)* risks and *(b)* other issues relating to the operation of departmental computer systems. [241309]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has an established process for managing risk and issues relating to its computer systems implemented at various functional levels. This risk management framework incorporates internal and external good practice from both the public and private sectors and is fully consistent with the HMT guidelines. The Risk Management Framework formally describes the Department's approach to risk management and is based on a set of core elements which are mandated across all business units, programmes and projects.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what business continuity and disaster recovery plans his Department maintains in relation to its computer systems. [241310]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has Business Continuity Plans, which are flexible and proven, to ensure that its customers receive their payments on time. Every departmental business area has its own Business Continuity Plans in place to support this top priority and these plans are comprehensively rehearsed at regular intervals. These plans are supported by resilience built into the Department's IT systems design and alternative clerical process to deliver key services to customers where practicable.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent surveys *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have undertaken of satisfaction levels of users of departmental computer systems. [241312]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP Staff Survey, conducted annually, contains a question on whether IT provides effective support for the job staff do. In addition, the annual IT & Telephony Satisfaction Survey, of a sample of staff across the Department, asks over 100 questions on a range of IT systems, services and equipment. The answers are used to identify priorities for improvement.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for future changes to its computer systems which store *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial data. [241317]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not categorise changes to computer systems according to data distinctions: changes often affect the storage of both financial and non-financial data and its deployment.

The Department's computer systems are constantly reviewed to support policy and business modernisation and to improve efficiency and value for money. The Department currently has a schedule of over 1,200 IT system changes in the next 12 months. Many of these will arise from its current portfolio of about 200 modernisation projects.

19 of these are major business change programmes supported by IT. They are listed in appendix 1 of the report of the National Audit Office to the Work and Pensions Committee (Department for Work and Pensions: Information Technology Programmes), a copy of which is in the Library. They include programmes which will improve the deployment of financial information, for example the Central Payment System, and programmes

to deliver efficient and effective services to the Department's customers, for example the Department for Work and Pensions Change Programme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's *(a)* initiation documents, *(b)* business cases, *(c)* cost/benefit analyses, *(d)* communication plans, *(e)* project plans, *(f)* risks and issues logs, *(g)* technical and functional specifications, *(h)* user acceptance criteria and *(i)* stakeholder analyses for planned IT projects. [241390]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available in the format requested. It is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Work and Pensions currently has a portfolio of over 200 projects with varying degrees of IT input. Project documentation is constantly updated and often contains both commercially sensitive and other information which may be prejudicial to the security of the Department's IT systems. The additional cost of removing such sensitive information to permit publication would be prohibitive. The Department regularly publishes information on major current modernisation projects in its annual plans and reports which are held in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241963]

Jonathan Shaw: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on The Department for Work and Pensions' internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the organisational chart for his Department. [241445]

Jonathan Shaw: A copy of the DWP senior management organisation chart has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240465]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions maintains a separate account code within its ledgers in order to capture departmental expenditure on official hospitality.

The Department does not currently keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account referred to above.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241232]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a separate or identifiable account code in departmental finance records to distinguish ministerial hospitality from other forms of hospitality. To try and identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Public Opinion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1966-67W, on departmental public opinion, whether the outturn costs of the focus groups were within budget. [241034]

Jonathan Shaw: As referred to in my previous answer to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne), 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1966-67W, the costs of focus groups are often included within campaign development and evaluation costs. Specific budget allocations and costs for focus group elements are therefore not held separately.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1966-67W, on departmental public opinion, what plans his Department has to hold further focus groups. [241035]

Jonathan Shaw: As referred to in my previous answer to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne), 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1966-67W, focus group research is an integral part of the development of communications campaigns, as well as being used to inform some of the Department's larger evaluation exercises. The Department will undoubtedly use focus group research in the future but detailed plans are not yet established

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242109]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information his Department collects on the administration of *(a)* disability living and *(b)* attendance allowance; [240493]

(2) what information his Department routinely collects on the administration of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance. [241267]

Jonathan Shaw: The Pension, Disability and Carers Service collects data for disability living allowance and attendance allowance that provides management information on customers (such as age, location, types of disability, benefits received), characteristics of claims, composition and levels of workloads, speed and accuracy of processing, telephone and other contact statistics, customer satisfaction, complaints and other inquiries, costs and related physical resource information.

This information is typically used to assess performance against published and other internal targets and benchmarks, including to identify and monitor variations in performance between operational units and in some cases teams.

Disability Living Allowance: Cancer

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the qualifying periods for the disability living allowance and attendance allowance for cancer patients. [242861]

Jonathan Shaw: We have no plans to review the qualifying periods for disability living allowance and attendance allowance. The qualifying periods help establish that disability and the resulting care, supervision or mobility needs are of a long standing nature, and ensure that the benefit goes only to those for whom it is intended.

Disabled people do not always have to wait until the qualifying period is over before they become entitled to benefit. The decision maker will always look at whether, and for how long, the person has required the necessary level of help or has had the necessary degree of walking difficulties before the date of their claim, and consider whether some or all of the qualifying period has already been completed. In addition, special rules can apply to people who are terminally ill and who would not reasonably be expected to live beyond six months. These people do not have to satisfy the qualifying period and are automatically awarded the higher rate of attendance allowance or the highest rate care component of disability living allowance without having to meet the normal conditions of entitlement.

Electronic Government: Consultants

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which consultants are employed to work on Direct.gov; and what the purpose is of the work they are undertaking. [241577]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: Directgov has traditionally employed contract staff to fill short-term posts and those posts requiring specialist skills which cannot be recruited from within the civil service. This policy will continue as there is always likely to be a small number of contractors employed. All contractor posts are subject to competition and in order to ensure value for money, all new posts are to be market tested by carrying out a recruitment exercise to ascertain whether suitable resources can be recruited as permanent staff. There is likely to remain a requirement for critical posts to be staffed by a contractor on an interim basis while the recruitment exercise is being carried out.

The contractors currently employed by Directgov are listed in the following table. It should be noted that we are including temporary staff, interims and contractors.

Name of supplier	*Contractors name*	*Service line*	*Contract*
Sammons	Jonathan Tagg	Communications Team	Administration Officer
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Tayo Oshinow	Editorial and Service Team	Administration Officer
Sammons	Alexandria Jackson	Proposition and Strategy Team	Administration Officer
Cadence Partnership LLP	Gita Singham-Willis	Business and Operations Team	Benefits Realisation
Molten-Group	Amma Saifo	Business and Operations Team	Benefits Realisation Support
Stimulation Limited	Andrew Cooper	Proposition and Strategy Team	Brand Manager
Blue Pig Consultancy	David Allen	Business and Operations Team	Business Analyst and Technology Assurance Lead
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Ian Maddison	Business and Operations Team	Business Analyst (Web Specialist)
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Thandi Barrett	Business and Operations Team	Business Analyst (Web Specialist)
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Irene Conlon	Business and Operations Team	Business Analyst (Website Specialist)
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Sachin Joshi	Business and Operations Team	Business Analyst (Website Specialist)
Molten-Group	Sarah Halverson	Business and Operations Team	Business Model Analyst
Molten-Group	Eric Valk	Business and Operations Team	Business Model Process Lead
NESco (Catalist Terms)	Martin Smith	Business and Operations Team	Business Performance and Data Analyst
TBC	TBC	Business and Operations Team	Business Process Analyst

Name of supplier	*Contractors name*	*Service line*	*Contract*
Sands Resources	Natasha Williams	Editorial and Service Team	CMS Trainer and Support
Sands Resources	Neisha Khan	Editorial and Service Team	CMS Trainer and Support
StopGap	Barnaby Smith	Proposition and Strategy Team	Communications Research Manager
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Steven Raith	Editorial and Service Team	Computer Technician
Recruitmedia	Joanne Lakeman	Editorial and Service Team	Content Editor
Recruitmedia	John Hughes	Editorial and Service Team	Content Editor
Badenoch and Clark	Tara Stockford	Editorial and Service Team	Content Editor
N-Select Ltd	Sarah Richards	Editorial and Service Team	Content Editor
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Richard Watson	Proposition and Strategy Team	Design Manager
Serco Consulting	Anthony Clark	Business and Operations Team	Directgov Delivery Team
Serco Consulting	Simon Jewell	Business and Operations Team	Directgov Delivery Team
Impact Executives	Paul Collman	Proposition and Strategy Team	Enterprise Architect G7
N-Select Ltd	David Dodds	Business and Operations Team	Head of Contracts
Specialist Computer Centres (SPRINT)	Harry Weber Brown	Communications Team	Head of External Comms for Directgov
Parity Resources	Michelle Darraugh	Communications Team	Head of Government Communications
Firemoon Limited	Gill Elderfield	Proposition and Strategy Team	Head of Mobile/ TV Product
Cadence Partnership LLP	Sally Meecham	Business and Operations Team	Head of Transformational Government
Cadence Partnership LLP	Joyce McMicken	Business and Operations Team	HR Communications Specialist
JFL Recruit	Desela Aleligay	Communications Team	Information Comms Officer
Recruitmedia	Hina Patel	Special Projects	Insight Consultant
Zebra People	Jason Buck	Special Projects	Insight Consultant
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Dhirendra Pattni	Special Projects	Interaction Designer
Recruitmedia	Karen Stanton	Special Projects	Interaction Designer
Zebra People	Kate Simpson	Special Projects	Interaction Designer
Zebra People	Prasanna Pavan	Special Projects	Interaction Designer
TFPL	David Mann	Proposition and Strategy Team	Interactive Channels Editor
StopGap	Stephanie Hubbard	Communications Team	Internal Communications Officer
Cadence Partnership LLP	Allan Fraser	Business and Operations Team	Portfolio Manager
Procurement Resources Ltd	David Ng	Business and Operations Team	Procurement and Contracts Manager
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Kiran Atwal	Business and Operations Team	Procurement Support
Zebra People	Simon Nixon	Special Projects	Producer T Leader
Sands Resources	Bill Mitchell	Business and Operations Team	Project Manager (Web Convergence)
LA International	Peter Herlihy	Business and Operations Team	Project Manager (Web Convergence)
Recruitmedia	Riz Moreton	Business and Operations Team	Project Manager Marketing and Comms
Serco Consulting	Jeremy Cox	Proposition and Strategy Team	Project Programme Manager
Badenoch and Clark	Margaret Alaka	Business and Operations Team	Project Support (Web Convergence)
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Rupert Laming	Business and Operations Team	Project Support (Web Convergence)
Serco Consulting	Paul Clarke	Proposition and Strategy Team	Proposition and Strategy Manager
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Daniel O'Driscall	Business and Operations Team	Publishing Model Process Lead
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Kaniza Khan	Communications Team	Relationship Manager
Cadence Partnership LLP	Rob Archer	Business and Operations Team	Role Engagement Definition Support
N-Select Ltd	Harry Lawanson	Editorial and Service Team	Senior Tester
David Rennie Consulting	David Rennie	Proposition and Strategy Team	Solutions Architect
Recruitmedia	Emma Martin	Proposition and Strategy Team	Strategic Development
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Helen Lippell	Editorial and Service Team	Taxonomy and Metadata
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Chris Ushewokunze	Citizen Feasibility Account	Technical Feasibility Lead
LA International	Stuart Tyler	Citizen Feasibility Account	Technical Analyst
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Mohammed Adil Rehman	Business and Operations Team	Technical Design Architect
Serco Interim Branch	Etienne Piciocchi	Citizen Feasibility Account	Technical Project Lead
N-Select Ltd	Gill Stewart	Business and Operations Team	Technical Project Manager
N-Select Ltd	Selina Siddiqui	Editorial and Service Team	Test Manager
NESco (Catalist Terms)	Edward Savage	Editorial and Service Team	User Acceptability Testing Manager
Recruitmedia	Ibrahim Ahmed	Special Projects	Web Producer
Zebra People	Jonathan Marsh	Special Projects	Web Producer
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Andrew Lamb	Proposition and Strategy Team	Web Product Manager

Name of supplier	*Contractors name*	*Service line*	*Contract*
ReThink (S-Cat provider for this contract is SFW Ltd)	Charlotte Walsh	Proposition and Strategy Team	Web Product Manager

Hotels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many nights he has spent in hotels on official business in the last 12 months. [240830]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has spent a total of seven nights in hotels in the last 12 months paid for by the Department.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions since the local housing allowance was introduced tenants have made legal or other representations to be classed as vulnerable in order to have their allowance paid direct to their landlord. [242945]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* This information is not available.

Housing Benefit: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calendar days on average each local authority in Kent took to process *(a)* new housing benefit claims and *(b)* housing benefit claims submitted by existing recipients as a result of a change in circumstances in each of the last five years. [241781]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following tables.

Average days to process new housing benefit claims: Kent local authorities

Local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ashford	49	44	36	33	27
Canterbury	36	41	30	23	17
Dartford	38	45	30	27	23
Dover	56	41	63	42	23
Gravesham	48	30	27	51	32
Maidstone	26	25	18	13	11
Medway	65	45	34	30	34
Sevenoaks	64	36	50	32	34
Shepway	47	63	66	52	24
Swale	150	98	36	33	21
Thanet	54	35	45	25	21
Tonbridge and Malling	25	25	24	34	36
Tunbridge Wells	23	25	25	25	19

Notes:
1. Housing benefit claim processing times are measured in calendar days from the day a claim is received to the date a decision is made.
2. Housing benefit claim processing performance data is supplied to DWP by local authorities and is un-audited.

Source:
Local Authority Management Information returns to DWP

Average days to process housing benefit changes of circumstances: Kent local authorities

Local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ashford	13	9	11	10	5
Canterbury	8	8	20	20	15
Dartford	14	16	10	9	12
Dover	25	12	22	16	6
Gravesham	18	15	12	41	11
Maidstone	11	7	5	6	4
Medway	23	13	14	10	7
Sevenoaks	25	10	18	7	5
Shepway	12	24	43	29	15
Swale	119	64	17	15	7
Thanet	8	5	10	7	8
Tonbridge and Malling	3	3	6	13	10
Tunbridge Wells	7	6	5	6	5

Notes:
1. Housing benefit change of circumstances processing times are measured in calendar days from the day a change is notified to the date a decision is made.
2. Housing benefit change of circumstances processing performance data is supplied to DWP by local authorities and is un-audited.

Source:
Local Authority Management Information returns to DWP

Housing Benefit: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claimants there are in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area and *(c)* Cheadle constituency. [242533]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: As at August 2007, the most recent available information, there were 518,600 housing benefit recipients in the north-west. At the same date there were 14,000 housing benefit recipients in Stockport metropolitan borough council area. Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

Notes:

1. Data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System

Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007.

Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has carried out of different economic and labour market conditions in assessing the potential effect of changes in eligibility for income support on *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* people claiming employment support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [241002]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1977W.

Jobcentre Plus

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the headquarters address is of each Jobcentre Plus district. [242053]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question requesting the headquarters addresses for each Jobcentre Plus district. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The addresses of all the district headquarters offices are enclosed.

I hope this information is helpful.

East Midlands

District	*Address*
Lincolnshire and Rutland District Office	Crown House, Danesgate, Lincoln LN2 1LJ
Nottinghamshire District Office	29 Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3BZ
Leicestershire District Office	2A New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TF

East of England

District	*Address*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire District Office	Office of the District Manager, St Albans Jobcentre, Beauver House, 6 Bricket Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3JU
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk District Office	Office of the District Manager, Ipswich Jobcentre, St Felix House, Silent Street, Ipswich IP1 1TF
Essex District Office	Office of the District Manager, Chelmsford Jobcentre, Government Buildings, Beeches Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM12RT
Norfolk District Office	Office of the District Manager, Norwich Jobcentre, Kiln House, Pottergate, Norwich NR2 1BZ

London

District	*Address*
Central London District Office	1st floor, 26-46 Lisson Grove, Marylebone, London NW1 6TZ
City and East District Office	60 Commercial Road, Stepney, London E1 1LF
Lambeth Southwark and Wandsworth District Office	208-210 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4DE
North and North East London District Office	Crown House, 30 Main Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3HH
West London District Office	2nd floor, Glen House, 22 Glenthorne Road, London W6 0PP
South London District Office	Unicorn House, 2nd Floor, 28 Elmfield Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1NX

North East

District	*Address*
South Tyne and Wear Valley District Office	Hallgarth Street, Durham DH1 3BP
Northumbria District Office	Cobalt House, Silver Fox Way, Cobalt Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE27 0QJ
Tees Valley District Office	3rd Floor, Daryl House, Bridge Road, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS18 3BW

North West

District	*Address*
Warrington District Office	Nolan House, 10 Mersey Street, Warrington WA1 2BL
Cumbria and Lancs District Office	Orchard House, Penny Street, Blackburn BB1 6HA
Greater Manchester Central District Office	Ontario House, 1st Floor, 2 Furness Quay, Salford M50 3XZ
Greater Manchester East and West District Office	Othen House, 7 Oldham Road, Middleton M24 1BE
Merseyside District Office	249 St Mary's Road, Liverpool L19 0NF

Scotland

District	*Address*
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde District Office	Wallacetoun House, John Street, Ayr KA8 0BX
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders District Office	Lyndean House, 199 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6QP
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside District Office	South Lodge, 2 St Ninians Road, Stirling FK8 2HF
Glasgow District Office	Corunna House, 39 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 7SS
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian District	83-97 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1ES
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire District Office	Flemington House, 600 Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 0EH

South East Region

District	*Address*
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire District Office	District Office, Adelphi House, Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1HD
Hampshire and Isle of Wight District Office	District Office, Wynnstay House, 121 High Street, Cosham, Hampshire P06 3DR
Kent District Office	District Office, 2nd Floor, County Gate One, Staceys Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1ST
Surrey and Sussex District Office	District Office, 2nd Floor, Ranger House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4UL

South West

District	*Address*
Devon and Cornwall District Office	Ground Floor, Pynes Hill Court, Rydon Lane, Exeter EX2 5SP
Dorset and Somerset District Office	Tamarisk House, 1 Cotlands Road, Bournemouth BH1 3BG
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon District Office	Cedar House, Spa Road, Gloucester GL1 1XL
West of England District Office	7th Floor, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NQ

Wales

District	*Address*
North and Mid Wales District Office	Wrexham Benefits Delivery Centre, Ty Maelor, 15-17 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham LL11 1BW
South East Wales District Office	Block 4, Government Buildings, St Agnes Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF14 4US

Wales

District	*Address*
South West Wales District Office	1 Windsor Road, Neath SA11 1LY
South Wales Valleys District Office	Oldway House, Broadway, Pontypridd CF91 1ZS

West Midlands

District	*Address*
Birmingham and Solihull District Office	3rd Floor, 37 Sutton New Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6TD
Black Country District Office	1st Floor, Crown House, Birch Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4JZ
Coventry and Warwickshire District Office	4th Floor, Cofa Court, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV1 2HJ
Staffordshire District Office	Greyfriars, Stafford ST16 2RY

Yorkshire and the Humber

District	*Address*
North East Yorkshire and the Humber District Office	Hull Britannia House (Hull West), 2 Ferensway, Hull HU2 8NF
South Yorkshire District Office	1 Hartshead Square ,Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2FD
West Yorkshire District Office	Southern House, 529 York Road, Leeds LS9 6TF

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the jobcentres located in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last three years. [242054]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell on 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1991-93W.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district at the latest date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [240518]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1982-86W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* in each region and *(b)* of each pay grade were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 1 April 2002. [240522]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1980W.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary was for *(a)* male and *(b)* female Jobcentre Plus employees in each region in each year since 1 April 2002. [240513]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1988-89W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary of *(a)* male and *(b)* female personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus in each region was in each year since the post was created. [240514]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1988W.

Jobseeker's Allowance: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there are in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Stockport metropolitan borough council area and (c) Cheadle constituency. [242534]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* In October 2008 there were 129,600 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the North West Government office region, 3,690 in Stockport local authority area and 620 in Cheadle parliamentary constituency.

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures for Stockport local authority area and Cheadle parliamentary constituency are seasonally unadjusted and exclude clerical cases.

3. Data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source: ONS.

Means Tested Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which means-tested benefits have income disregard rules; what the level of income disregard is for each benefit; and whether he plans to increase these levels. [241043]

Mr. McNulty: All of the income-related benefits for which the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible—income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit, housing benefit, and council tax benefit—have income disregard rules.

Comprehensive and detailed information concerning entitlement to these benefits and the associated income disregard rules is set out in The Law Relating to Social Security. The most easily accessible version is that available online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/docs/lawvols/bluevol/

The amount of the various income disregards is kept under review as part of the annual uprating process.

Mesothelioma: Compensation

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if, following the recent consultation in relation to the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme, he will hold a further consultation on the new scheme relating to lump sum payments for those suffering from mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos at work; [242858]

(2) what conclusions he has drawn from the responses to the recent consultation on the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme with regard to benefits being awarded to those individuals who have been retired from work or moved on to new employment and who later suffer disability as a result of injury at work. [242859]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: The consultation period ended on 22 October 2008. The consultation asked specifically how we might reform industrial injuries disablement benefit to provide better support to help people adjust to their new circumstances while maintaining the work focus of the modern welfare state, whether lump sum payments are a good way of meeting people's needs, whether they give people more choice and control and whether we could make more use of them.

In the White Paper published on 10 December we have made it clear that while some respondents to the Green Paper consultation supported the principle of lump sum payments for industrial injuries disablement benefits customers, others commented that there was a need for on-going support for some people injured or made ill by work, particularly for those with serious progressive illnesses. We believe that there remains a strong case for continuing to provide particular support for people whose disability arises from work and we think the current industrial injuries disablement benefits scheme is the best way to do this.

We have no plans for further consultation on the new scheme relating to lump sum payments for those suffering from mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos at work.

New Deal 50 Plus

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal 50 Plus programme entered sustainable employment in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district immediately on leaving the programme in each month since May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [240428]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2000W.

New Deal 50 Plus: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of the New Deal 50 Plus programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [241032]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2000W.

New Deal for Disabled People

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal for Disabled People programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district entered sustainable employment immediately on leaving the programme in each month since March 2006; [240512]

(2) how many and what proportion of leavers from the New Deal for Disabled People programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district entered immediately into sustainable employment on leaving the programme in each month since March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [240525]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2001-02W.

New Deal for Partners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal for Partners Programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district entered immediately into sustainable employment on leaving the programme in each month since May 2007; [240511]

(2) how many and what proportion of leavers from the New Deal for Partners Programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district entered immediately into sustainable employment on leaving the programme in each month since May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [240524]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2003-04W.

New Deal for Partners: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the New Deal for Partners Programme was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [241090]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2004W.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data are held centrally on the performance of Pathways to Work providers; and if he will make a statement. [243477]

Jonathan Shaw: Data are currently collected centrally on the performance of Pathways to Work providers but as this is classified as 'Commercial in Confidence' this information is not published. A full evaluation of Provider Led Pathways to Work is due to commence in 2009 and these results will be published.

Pensioners: Tendring

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist pensioners in Tendring with meeting increases in the cost of living. [242615]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2017W.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what legal justification his Department based its decision to *(a)* terminate the tender process for the Post Office card account and *(b)* award the contract for the Post Office card account to the Post Office. [242632]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The decision to end the tender process and to award a contract to the Post Office was taken in accordance with domestic and European Union law including the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and EU Directive 2004/18/EC.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of children in each age group in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley were living in absolute poverty in each year since 1997; [241375]

(2) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of disabled children living below the poverty line in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last 10 years. [241376]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in relative or absolute poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. Information is therefore not available at parliamentary constituency or local authority level.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed applications for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans, *(c)* community care grants, *(d)* disability living allowance and *(e)* severe disability living allowance there were at the end of each quarter of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [240519]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W.

Social Fund: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in crisis loans *(a)* in total and *(b)* by each London Jobcentre in each year since 2005. [240701]

Kitty Ussher: Crisis loan gross expenditure in Great Britain since 2005 is shown in the following table.

Crisis loan gross expenditure in Great Britain

	£ million
2005-06	86.4
2006-07	97.9
2007-08	121.2

Note:
Figures include gross expenditure made after review.
Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund.

Information on how much was paid out in crisis loans by each London Jobcentre since 2005 is not available.

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* crisis loan, *(d)* community care grant and *(e)* budgeting loan applications was in (i) each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and (ii) nationwide in each quarter of each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241030]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the tariff incomes schedule in means-tested benefits and pension credit following the recent reductions in base interest rates. [243938]

Mr. McNulty: Although the capital limits that apply when calculating tariff income are kept under continual review they can be increased only when priorities and resources allow. The tariff income rules are not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. They provide a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of £6,000 (or £10,000 if in a care home) are expected to make from those resources to help meet their normal living expenses. As there is no link with actual market rates, deductions remained unaltered throughout the period of rising interest rates, just as they have done more recently, when interest rates have been lower.

Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many EU nationals who have returned from the UK to their own country are in receipt of benefits from the UK. [240804]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what system is used to operate the Work Capability Assessment; and what the unit processing time for each assessment is. [240264]

Jonathan Shaw: The Medical Services Referral System is the IT system used to manage referrals for work capability assessments (WCAs), while the logic integrated medical assessment is a tool developed to support health care professionals carrying out WCAs. It uses rules derived from evidence-based medical protocols to guide healthcare professionals into making logical decisions.

The WCA is made up of the limited capability for work, limited capability for work related activity (LCW/LCWRA) and the work focused health related assessment (WFHRA). The LCW/LCWRA assessment will take on average approximately 43 minutes to complete and the WFHRA, where required, will take on average 30 minutes. However, both are independent medical assessments and the time taken will vary according to individual customer needs.

Social Security Benefits: Mentally Ill

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of the potential benefits of appointeeship among people with mental illness and their carers. [240494]

Jonathan Shaw: Appointees only apply in a limited number of cases. The Department has a range of procedures in place to make customers and their carers aware of the provisions which allow the Secretary of State to appoint a person to act on behalf of another. For example, the employment support allowance information leaflet and claim form gives clear advice on appointeeship. Where claims are taken over the phone by the Pension Service systems are in place to identify those customers who have difficulty managing their own affairs. Local service staff would consider appointeeship at all visits where it appeared appropriate.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the conclusions of his Department's consideration of the European Court of Justice's ruling on exportable disability benefits were; and if he will make a statement. [243060]

Jonathan Shaw: People who are already receiving disability benefits—disability living allowance care component, attendance allowance or carer's allowance—when they leave the UK to live in another European Economic Area state or in Switzerland can continue to receive the benefits, subject to certain conditions. The rules are set out on the Directgov website at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/Introductiontofinancialsupport/DG_073387

We are still considering the implications of the European Court's decision for people who are UK citizens but who live in another European Economic Area state or in Switzerland and who wish to claim a disability benefit. We will publish the criteria for awarding the benefits on the Directgov website as soon as the details have been finalised.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many expatriate UK citizens have sought payment of exportable benefits following the ruling of the European Court of Justice on 18 December 2007. [243061]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the date of the judgement we have received around 1,700 requests for payment of disability living allowance (care component), attendance allowance and carer's allowance from people who previously lived in the United Kingdom and are now living in another European Economic Area state or Switzerland.

Vocational Training: Redundancy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service has cost in each year since it was established. [241013]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2041-42W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of bids for services from the rapid response service were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected in each region in each year since the service was established; what proportion of those rejected were rejected as a result of (i) funding constraint and (ii) employers and employees not meeting eligibility criteria in each such (A) region and (B) year; and if he will make a statement. [241015]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2040-41W.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which charities his Department has provided funding of more than £100,000 in each of the last three years; and how much was given to each. [243138]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has not funded any charities with more than £100,000 in each of the last three years.

Winter Fuel Payments: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Cheadle constituency and *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area which will be eligible for cold weather payments if the temperature falls below the level which triggers payment of the allowance in 2008-09. [242535]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: The estimated number of households eligible for cold weather payments is not available by local authority or parliamentary constituency, but only by weather station.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Azerbaijan: Trade Agreements

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support Azerbaijan's application for admission to the World Trade Organisation. [242866]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcomes the progress that Azerbaijan is making towards meeting the conditions for joining the WTO. Following on from the bilateral negotiations between Azerbaijan and WTO members and the meeting of the Azerbaijan WTO accession working party in Geneva in the week beginning 8 December, the Government looks forward to further substantial progress to allow WTO accession to happen as soon as possible.

Detainees: Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the US administration on behalf of Mr. Binyam Mohamed in respect of his detention in Guantanamo Bay. [240319]

Bill Rammell: Following the Government's request for Mr. Mohamed's release and return in August 2007 we have actively pursued his case with all levels of the US Government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed Mr. Mohamed's case with Secretary of State Rice on a number of occasions and senior officials—including our ambassador in Washington—have had regular discussions with their counterparts in the Departments of State and Defence and the National Security Council to take forward the request for his release and return.

In addition to our ongoing efforts to secure Mr. Mohamed's release and return from Guantanamo Bay, these engagements have included representations on his welfare, his allegations of mistreatment, and strenuous efforts to ensure that his lawyers were able to access the information they sought via judicial review in the English courts through the US legal system. UK officials also conducted a welfare visit to Mr. Mohamed in Guantanamo Bay in July.

Russia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcome of the European Commission's assignment to examine the practical consequences to be drawn from Russia's unilateral decision to recognise the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as set out in paragraph two of the 1 September Presidency Conclusions of the European Council (12594/08); and if he will make a statement. [240832]

David Miliband: The examination undertaken focused on areas of trade and visa policy.

The Commission decided that there was no real risk of the EU unwittingly trading with South Ossetia and Abkhazia because the Government in Tblisi issues certificates of origin on goods which come to the EU and the Commission would continue to implement its policies rigorously.

Member states were concerned that Russian passport holders in South Ossetia and Abkhazia currently enjoy better access to the EU than Georgian passport holders due to the EU-Russia visa facilitation and re-admission agreements. Accordingly, in response to the conflict and the 1 September European Council conclusions, the EU has increased the pace of negotiations on visa facilitation and re-admissions with Georgia. As the UK is not part of the Schengen agreement, the Government have given formal notification that they intend to participate in the adoption of this recommendation.

St Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to improve transport links between the United Kingdom and St Helena. [240876]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the bank recapitalisation scheme on levels of bank lending. [244124]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor announced on 25 November that the Government would undertake a quick review of the arrangements for the Government's Credit Guarantee Scheme and assess whether they have any implications for the Crosby proposals and how it was working in practice, to maximise its impact on financial and wider economic stability while ensuring it did not crowd out market-based lending now or when better market conditions return.

That review is now complete, and the Government are today announcing changes to the Scheme consistent with the objectives of the review.

Taking account of international experience, and market developments, in particular the falls in bank risk premia, the Government are adjusting the formula that determines the fees paid by participating institutions for use of the Government guarantees. This will lead to those institutions paying a lower, but still commercial, fee for use of the Scheme.

To enable participating institutions to manage better the transition from guaranteed to wholly unsupported funding the Government will also lengthen the scheme, from three to five years, ending in April 2014. Within that the three year maximum term of individual instruments will be retained, with some flexibility to roll them over as agreed with the Treasury. At present the Scheme guarantees borrowing in Sterling, Euros and US Dollars. In future participants will also be able to borrow in a wider range of currencies, further extending the investor base in UK banks and building societies.

These changes will enable banks and building societies to borrow from a diverse range of investors, improve their financial positions, and therefore pave the way for them to lend to the economy.

These proposals vary the Scheme as approved by the European Commission on 13 October 2008 and are subject to the Commission's approval under the state aid rules. The Government have informed the European Commission of these proposals and will bring forward changes to the rules of the Scheme to implement these proposals once they have obtained the Commission's approval.

Full details of the changes are being published on the Treasury and the Debt Management Office's websites.

Banking: Iceland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of money held by UK residents in Landsbanki Guernsey; [242235]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of money held by UK residents in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man. [242245]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government and the Financial Services Authority do not hold such information.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man and Guernsey are a matter for the Governments of the Isle of Man and Guernsey.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the take-up by employers of the childcare voucher scheme in circumstances where the employee receives no more than statutory maternity pay; and if he will make a statement. [243697]

Mr. Timms: No official data are collected from employers regarding the offer of child care voucher schemes to employees. Child care voucher schemes are voluntary schemes and employers are not required to inform HMRC that they offer these arrangements to their employees. This applies irrespective of whether the employees are in receipt of normal pay or statutory maternity pay.

Research undertaken in 2006 estimated that approximately 2.5 per cent. of employers offered child care voucher schemes or another form of employer supported child care to their employees. This research can be found at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report23-final.pdf

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage parents to increase payments to child trust fund accounts. [243101]

Ian Pearson: The Child Trust Fund (CTF) provides every child with £250 at birth (£500 for children in lower-income families) and again at the age of seven. The policy is designed to strengthen the saving habit of future generations, promote financial education and ensure that at age 18 every child will have access to a financial asset. Payments at age seven will begin in September 2009.

HMRC runs a year round marketing campaign to raise awareness of CTF among parents and to help them engage with the product. This includes helping them to understand how they can make a contribution if they wish to do so. The CTF marketing campaign consists of targeted advertising on radio, in parenting press, online, promotional activity in ante-natal clinics and through working with third party organisations including the voluntary sector and commercial organisations.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average payment has been made by parents into existing child trust fund accounts in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception; [243102]

(2) how many children were eligible to receive a child trust fund voucher in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception; [243103]

(3) how many child trust fund vouchers have been used by parents to open an account in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception; [243104]

(4) how many child trust fund vouchers have been issued in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception. [243105]

Ian Pearson: The Detailed Distributional Analysis, including details of average contributions made by parents and others was published on 6 November 2008. Geographically these data are only available at Government office region level and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_trust_funds/dda-oct08.pdf.

Constituency level data, including the number of vouchers issued and parental account opening figures, on Child Trust Fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf.

Clothing: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will review his policy of VAT relief for children's clothes in view of the increase to 18 years of age of the requirement to participate in education or training; and if he will make a statement; [243078]

(2) what research he has reviewed on changes in the average size of clothes required by children up to the age of 16 in the last 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [243003]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W, in which I explained why under VAT agreements with our European partners signed by successive Governments, it is not possible to extend the present zero-rating for children's clothing to clothing designed for children older than 13.

The current size limits for zero-rating of young children's clothing were set in 2001, after a comprehensive review by a working group which included representatives from the retail and manufacturing sectors.

As we cannot extend zero-rating to clothes for children older than 13, the average size of clothes for older children was not considered by the group.

Debt

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of individuals subject to debt management plans in each of the last four years. [242286]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Because a debt management plan (DMP) is an informal agreement between a debtor and his creditors, there is no official record of their numbers. There is a multiplicity of both public and private sector providers in this area, but in view of the scarcity of information available, no attempt has been made to estimate numbers.

The Consumer Credit Counselling Service, the biggest provider of DMPs in the third sector, set up 12,500 DMPs in the first six months of this year.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242128]

Angela Eagle: There were no undergraduate, postgraduate, MBA or PhD courses funded by the Department in the last 12 months. Six masters degrees were funded by the Department in this period, three each in pay ranges D and E.

The information provided refers to centrally funded Economics courses. Individuals can also achieve sponsorship through their team budgets for specialist skills courses, e.g., Accountancy or CIPD or other degree or diploma courses for which we have no central records.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W, on departmental ICT, how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are or have been working on each of the IT projects listed; [242096]

(2) if he will list the companies with which his Department or its agencies have contracts relating to each of the IT projects; [242097]

(3) what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* cost to date has been of each of the IT projects; [242099]

(4) what the purpose is of each of the IT projects; [242100]

(5) how many contractors in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are or have been working on each of the IT projects. [242101]

Angela Eagle: Only two of the projects listed in my previous answer, which had been subject to a Gateway Review by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), belong to HM Treasury and its agencies.

(1) HM Treasury Group's Corporate Shared Services Programme was a management programme delivering better quality service provision, through transforming skills, services and better deployment of resources. The IT-enabling element of the programme was the creation of a single system to underpin the new shared Human Resource service, for people in HM Treasury and OGC.

The contracted companies used under the IT-enabling element of the programme were Deloittes Touche, Parity, Certes and Rullion Computer Personnel.

(2) The OGC Consultancy Services Framework project (now known as External Resources Framework) is an acquisition project, not an IT-enabled one. It has been categorised in error as an IT-enabled project in our database and this is why it appeared in the initial reply. The framework provides OGC with access to a pool of skilled individuals to support OGC's aims and objectives by conducting reviews (e.g. Gateway Reviews, Procurement Capability Reviews, reviews of major projects and programmes) via a framework contract with a number of suppliers. The project did not use any contracted companies, as it was sourced entirely from internal OGC resource.

The further information requested in respect of these two projects is given in the following table.

Responsibility for the 2011 Census Project was transferred to the Cabinet Office in April 2008, when the Office for National Statistics became part of the independent UK Statistics Authority.

In respect of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 279W.

The other projects listed in my previous answer form part of HMRC's Departmental Transformation Programme, including:

(1) the New Penalties Project, which is making the changes necessary to implement a new penalties regime for HMRC taxes established in Finance Act 2007;

(2) Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS), a project to computerise the current paper system to track the movement of duty suspended excise goods within the EU (to comply with European Council Decision 1152/2003/EC).

Details of these projects (including the purpose of individual programmes, costs to 31 March 2008, and planned expenditure to 2011) are outlined in the National Audit Office's recent value-for-money report on that programme, published in July 2008 (HC 930).

HM Treasury Group Projects

Projects	*Number of staff*	*Number of contractors*	*Budget*	*Cost to date*[1]
Corporate Shared Services Programme	11	7	£1.36 million	£0.91 million
Consultancy Services Framework	6	None	n/a	[2]£105,000

[1] 30 September 2008

[2] The project is closed

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 541W, on departmental ICT, whether any of the IT projects were discontinued as a result of the Gateway review process. [242098]

Angela Eagle: None of the HMT IT projects were discontinued as a result of the Gateway™ review process. The Gateway process is intended to provide independent expert advice to the senior responsible owner of a programme/project on achieving successful delivery; it is not designed to recommend the cancellation of projects.

Gateway information is only part of the assurance advice SROs receive If a Department is considering cancelling a project it will consider all assurance advice available to them.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 778-80W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost of each of the projects was at its outset. [242169]

Angela Eagle: Original costs and completion dates for the projects were as follows:

Department	*IT Project*	*Estimated cost at outset (£)*	*Estimated completion date at outset*
HMT	OGC Laptop Refresh Project—Planned replacement of obsolete equipment with new devices with remote working capabilities.	280,575	August 2008
HMT	Group Networks—Implementation of new Restricted network infrastructure for shared services.	628,750	March 2008
HMT	Common Infrastructure Management Tools—Implementation of single toolset and process for systems management across multiple networks. Confidential and restricted including deployment of software/upgrades and security patches.	462,000	November 2008
HMT	Firewall Replacement Project—Planned replacement of obsolete firewalls to ensure security and compliance of networks and services.	339,000	February 2008
HMT	Switch Replacement Project—Planned replacement of obsolete network infrastructure to ensure delivery, security and performance of networks and services.	456,000	August 2008
HMT	OGC Blackberry—implementation of Blackberry servers and devices to support the business requirements.	52,000	December 2008

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243900]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1891W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne).

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243561]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1891W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne).

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243359]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 166W, to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk).

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242611]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers, including the Chancellor, have used various forms of public transport in the course of their ministerial duties over the last year.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242157]

Angela Eagle: 73 workers in the Treasury were engaged via Kelly Services during 2007-08.

The average length of assignment, or numbers of assignments via other suppliers is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department are engaged in work on the UK's potential membership of the euro. [240962]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that

> "the Government does not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget."

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

Economic Situation: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* primary objective of the review relating to Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008 is. [240811]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor has asked Michael Foot to conduct an independent review of the long-term opportunities and challenges facing the British Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories as financial centres, which have been brought into focus by recent financial and economic events. All Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories with financial centres are in scope for the review. This covers the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Anguilla.

The Review's objective is to consider how Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories, whose economic models place a significant reliance on financial services, can respond in the long term to the new conditions created by the stressed economic circumstances of recent months. The terms of reference for the review have been posted on the Treasury website.

Equitable Life

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the closure of Equitable Life to new business; [242640]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to protect the investments of Equitable Life policyholders; [242641]

(3) whether his Department monitored the proposed sale of the Equitable Life with-profits fund. [242642]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W.

EU Budget

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the EU budget UK contributions will comprise in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [243025]

Ian Pearson: Chart 2.3 (page 17) of the 2008 European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 7462) shows the respective member states' percentage shares of financing the 2008 EC Budget. The equivalent shares for the 2009 and 2010 EC Budgets will be included in the 2009 and 2010 White Papers respectively.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of trends in exchange rates on the UK's contribution to the EU budget. [243027]

Ian Pearson: Exchange rate assumptions are just one of a number of factors which are taken into account, and which inter-relate with each other, in putting together each forecast of UK contributions to the EC Budget. Figures for UK net contributions to the EC Budget are published twice each year in the Budget and the pre-Budget report (PBR) and latest estimates of these for the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 were included in Table B16 (page 210) of the PBR (Cm 7484) published on 24 November 2008.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to mitigate the possible effects of foreign exchange movements on the level of the UK's financial contribution to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [243028]

Ian Pearson: UK in-year contributions are not affected by exchange rate movements because contributions are made using a fixed exchange rate that is set on the last working day of the previous year.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Exchequer received in alcohol duties in each year since 1997, expressed in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* 2008-09 prices; [240647]

(2) what percentage of total tax revenue was made up by alcohol taxes in each of the last five years; [240648]

(3) what percentage of total tax revenue he expects to be made up by alcohol taxes in each of the next three years. [240649]

Angela Eagle: The UK Trade Information website contains information on the amount of alcohol duty revenue received by HM Revenue and Customs in cash terms. Deflating by RPI, revenue in 2008-09 prices, to the nearest £10 million, has been estimated as:

	Revenue in 2008-09 prices (£ million)
1997-98	7,880
1998-99	7,920
1999-2000	8,440
2000-01	8,480
2001-02	8,690
2002-03	8,980
2003-04	9,050
2004-05	9,140
2005-06	8,880
2006-07	8,630
2007-08	7,880

Website address:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=factalcohol

Alcohol duty revenue as a percentage of total HMRC revenue is summarised as follows:

	Total revenue from alcohol duty (Percentage)
2003-04	2.2
2004-05	2.1
2005-06	2.0
2006-07	1.9
2007-08	1.8

Forecast alcohol duty revenue as a percentage of forecast total revenue is estimated to be 1.9 per cent. in 2008-09, 2.1 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2.0 per cent. in 2010-11.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Treasury of extending the reduced rate of duty on beer for beer from singleton breweries that produce *(a)* 50,000 hectolitres, *(b)* 100,000 hectolitres, *(c)* 150,000 hectolitres and *(d)* 200,000 hectolitres per year. [240869]

Angela Eagle: No estimate of the cost of extending the reduced rate of duty on beer from singleton breweries has been made.

The changes that have been made to alcohol duties in each year since 1997 are available from the UK Trade Information website. See table 3 from the respective bulletins. Website address:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bulletins

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for reducing levels of duty on alcohol introduced to offset the temporary reduction in VAT levels. [243487]

Angela Eagle: The position is set out in Chapters 2 and 5 of the pre-Budget report.

Industrial Buildings Allowances

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of the industrial buildings allowance in each of the last five years; what percentage of such expenditure was accounted for by the construction of new hotels; and if he will make a statement. [242889]

Mr. Timms: The average annual value of IBA relief claimed by businesses was approximately £2.2 billion per annum between 2003 and 2005. The cost of this to the Exchequer is estimated to be approximately £600 million per annum.

Businesses with a primary activity operating hotels during this period accounted for, on average, an estimated £180 million per annum; with an estimated cost to the Exchequer of £45 million to £50 million per year.

Information for later years is not yet complete.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of the change in the level of empty property rate since its introduction on 1 April 2008. [243679]

Angela Eagle: The Department of Communities and Local Government published an impact assessment of the empty property rate relief reforms in May 2007 alongside the primary legislation.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/ratingempty

On 26 February this year, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government laid a further assessment before the House, alongside the regulations.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20080386_en.pdf

The Government announced in the recent pre-Budget report, a temporary increase, for 2009-10, to the threshold (from £2,200 to £15,000) at which an empty property becomes liable for business rates.

This was targeted at helping small businesses who own lower value properties manage short-term pressures due to difficult property market conditions. It is estimated more than 70 per cent. of empty properties will pay no business rates in 2009-10.

The Government keep all taxes and reliefs under review.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Valuation Office Agency was instructed to value port businesses for rating purposes; when the valuation process began; which ports businesses have been valued so far; and which remain to be valued. [241083]

Angela Eagle: It is the responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to ensure all businesses have the correct rateable value. The VOA was not specifically instructed to value port businesses, but is obliged to carry out ratings in respect of this responsibility.

A review of the rating of businesses within the ports was started in May 2006, once points of legal principle which arose during an earlier review of the port of Southampton had been clarified. Reviews of all 55 ports have now been completed. The rating list has been updated in 50 of these cases. In the remaining five reviews, the Valuation Office has contacted the ratepayers notifying them of their intentions and inviting them to discuss the proposals in advance of the rating list being amended.

Following is a list of the 55 ports subject to recent review.

Barrow
Blyth
Boston
Bristol
Dover
Falmouth
Felixstowe
Fleetwood
Folkestone
Garston
Goole
Great Yarmouth
Grimsby
Harwich dock
Harwich International
Heysham
Hull
Humber sea terminal
Immingham
Ipswich
King's Lynn
Liverpool
Lowestoft
Manchester ship canal
Newhaven
Plymouth Cattedown
Plymouth Millbay
Poole
Port of London
Portsmouth
Ramsgate
Southampton container terminal
Seaham
Sharpness
Sheerness
Shoreham
Southampton
Sunderland
Tilbury Container Services
Teesport
Teignmouth
Thamesport
Tilbury
Tyne
Workington
Barry
Cardiff
Fishguard
Holyhead
Milford Dock Company
Milford Haven Port Authority
Mostyn
Newport
Port Talbot
Swansea.

Northern Rock

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allow Northern Rock shareholders to retain their shares when the bank is returned to the private sector. [242865]

Ian Pearson: The shares of Northern Rock were transferred to the Government when it was taken into public ownership. An independent valuer has been appointed to assess any compensation that may be payable to those affected by the transfer of Northern Rock to the Treasury on 22 February 2008.

More information is available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_91_08.htm

and on the valuer's website at:

http://www.northernrockvaluer.org.uk

Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1907W, on Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar, which of the organisations that signed memorandums of understanding to implement the Zanzibar eProcurement Service have since implemented it. [242277]

Angela Eagle: The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government signed the memorandum of understanding and have since implemented the Zanzibar eProcurement Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1907W, on Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar, what assessment his Department has made of the potential annual savings achievable from the implementation of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service by each of the organisations that signed memorandums of understanding. [242278]

Angela Eagle: Assessment of savings is the responsibility of individual organisations.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1907-8W, on the Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar, what assessment his Department has made of the annual cost to OGC Buying Solutions of *(a)* running the Zanzibar User Group and *(b)* the eCommerce team's work in support of the Zanzibar Service. [242279]

Angela Eagle: OGC estimate the costs to be approximately £8,000 per annum and £542,795 for 2007-08, respectively.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid to ProcServe for services relating to the Zanzibar eProcurement Service in each of the last four years. [242280]

Angela Eagle: £70,000 has been paid to ProcServe in 2008-09. No payments were made in the previous three years.

Possessor of the Duchy of Cornwall

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) who the Possessor of the Duchy of Cornwall is, with particular reference to its tax affairs; [242079]

(2) what the tax status of the Duchy of Cornwall is, with particular reference to *(a)* commercial benefit derived from the marketing of Duchy of Cornwall produce, *(b)* the use of the Prince of Wales's feathers device on such produce and *(c)* the involvement of Choughs Nominees Ltd. [242320]

Mr. Darling: The possessor of the Duchy of Cornwall is His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall.

The tax arrangements for the Duchy of Cornwall are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding on Royal Taxation, attached to the Report of the Royal Trustees published on 11 February 1993 (HC464), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Public Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to table B4 of the Pre-Budget Report, on the fiscal balances compared with Budget 2008, what the figures for the cyclically-adapted *(a)* surplus on current budget and *(b)* net borrowing are as a percentage of projected gross domestic product for each year. [243289]

Yvette Cooper: Projections for both the cyclically-adjusted surplus on current budget and public sector net borrowing (PSNB) as a percentage of GDP can be found in Table B3and Table B4 of the 2008 pre-Budget report (p190 and p192).

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the consultation on the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland cost. [242746]

Mr. Timms: Consultation on all its proposals with staff, unions, and key external stakeholders was an integral part of HM Revenue and Customs' regional review programme. This drew on the resources not only of the dedicated Workforce Change team but of a number of teams across the Department, and it is not possible to separate out the costs of consultation.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of his Department's liability for redundancy payments consequent upon the planned closures of HM Revenue and Customs offices, broken down by location of office. [242740]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies as far as is reasonably practical. It has set up regional Implementation Teams to take forward the decisions on HMRC's future office structure. Each of these will be responsible for implementing the planned office changes within its area, engaging with staff to help find individual solutions that achieve the best corporate result. At this stage it is not possible to state either what the overall costs of redundancy might be, or in which locations redundancies might arise.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer where HM Revenue and Customs offices identified for vacation following the announcement of the rationalisation programme, which are *(a)* owned or *(b)* leased by HM Revenue and Customs are leased; what estimate his Department has made of the costs of relinquishing those leases; and what estimate it has made of the cost of vacating these offices. [242766]

Mr. Timms: The vast majority of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) offices were included in its Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS), a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with its estate partner, Mapeley in 2001. HMRC occupies these properties under the terms of the STEPS contract rather than by the terms of a traditional lease.

Most of the offices identified for vacation under HMRC's Change Programme are held by HMRC under the STEPS contract or are offices that HMRC occupies by way of a non-lease, inter-departmental arrangement with other Government departments.

The offices closed or identified for closure that are held on a direct lease by HMRC are:

Oakglade House, Ashton Under Lyne

Portcullis House, Southend, Floors 11-14

Spitfire House, Edinburgh

Liberator House, Prestwick

Tremains House, Bridgend
Hockney House, Shipley
Ty Myrddin, Carmarthen

HMRC intends to align its vacation of its leased offices with the existing lease expiry or break dates so no additional costs other than usual lease termination costs should be incurred.

The estimated costs of vacating the offices held on a direct lease has not been separately quantified.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he received on the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Scotland; and, where such representations related to specific offices, which those offices are. [242768]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) received a large number of representations about the proposed closure of HMRC offices in Scotland. Some were made before any specific proposals for the future of these offices had been put forward, but the majority were received during and after the consultation exercises on specific proposals with staff, unions, MPs with a constituency interest and relevant local authorities.

Information about representations from external stakeholders about office closures in Scotland can be found in the impact assessments for specific buildings to be vacated. These are published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/regional-reviews.htm.

HMRC's records of staff responses to consultation exercises show that 474 staff responses, representing the views of 1,833 staff, were received during the consultation exercises on offices in Scotland. Some responses were general and some related to offices which HMRC will be retaining, but the majority included comments relating to specific office closure proposals.

The only proposed office closures about which no specific representations have been received were Spitfire House, Edinburgh, Gilmore House, Paisley and Meadowbank Street, Dumbarton.

Revenue and Customs: Security

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 593W, on departmental security, how many departmental passes were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen, in the same period, amongst (i) HM Revenue and Customs and (ii) the Valuation Office Agency. [241929]

Mr. Timms: In the 24 months up to 7 October 2008 the number of passes reported as lost by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff was 653 and 32 were reported as stolen. For the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) only one pass was lost over the same period. There are in total over 90,000 HMRC and VOA staff.

HMRC provides a helpdesk facility that enables staff to report such losses, and allows the Department to take appropriate steps to maintain security across all its estate, including the quick disabling of ID and building passes.

Royal Mint

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the market value of the *(a)* Royal Mint and *(b)* Land Registry. [242785]

Angela Eagle: In the PBR we announced studies which will explore the potential benefits of alternative future models for the Royal Mint, and the operating framework for the Land Registry, as part of the wider operational efficiency programme's asset strand. The studies will report progress at Budget 09.

Small Brewers Relief Scheme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost to his Department was of the Small Brewers Relief Scheme in each of the last five years; [240645]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of brewers that are eligible for the Small Brewers Relief Scheme; how many breweries took advantage of the scheme in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [240646]

Angela Eagle: Information on the cost to the Treasury of the Small Brewers Relief Scheme is published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax expenditures/menu.htm

and is only available for the last two financial years.

The numbers of brewers eligible for the Small Brewers Relief (i.e. that produce less than 5,000 HL of beer per year) in each of the last six years were:

	Number
2002	394
2003	421
2004	424
2005	497
2006	560
2007	592

The number of brewers that took advantage of Small Brewers Relief (i.e. that paid a duty rate of £6.63 before Budget 2007 and £6.85 after Budget 2007) in 2007 was estimated to be 419.

Small Businesses: Beer

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of singleton breweries which produce between *(a)* 30,000 and 49,999, *(b)* 50,000 and 99,999, *(c)* 100,000 and 149,999 and *(d)* 150,000 and 200,000 hectolitres per year. [240644]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs estimates the number of brewers in each category, in 2007, to be as follows:

Number and percentage share of brewers, 2007

Category	*Number of brewers*	*Percentage of brewers*
0-4,999 HL	592	86.8
5,000-29,999 HL	52	7.6
30,000-49,999 HL	4	0.6
50,000-99,999 HL	7	1.0

Number and percentage share of brewers, 2007

Category	*Number of brewers*	*Percentage of brewers*
100,000-149,999 HL	6	0.9
150,000-199,999 HL	2	0.3
>200,000 HL	19	2.8
Total	682	100.00

VAT: Christmas Cards

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether VAT is charged on sales of charity Christmas cards. [243966]

Mr. Timms: A donation that is freely given, and for which nothing is received in return, is outside the scope of VAT. Therefore, where an element of the purchase price for charity Christmas cards is optional and is clearly set out as a donation to charity, no VAT is chargeable on that part of the payment.

In addition, Christmas cards donated to a charity for sale are VAT zero-rated when sold by that charity (or its trading subsidiaries).

In all other circumstances, VAT is chargeable on the full price paid for charity Christmas cards. This position reflects the requirements of our European VAT agreements.

VAT: Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the income to his Department from value added tax from *(a)* self-installed energy efficiency improvements and *(b)* housing renovation and repair was in each year since 1997. [242744]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

VAT: Registration

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the year on year change in the rate of VAT registrations *(a)* in 2008-09 and *(b)* in each of the previous five years has been; and what estimate he has made of the revenue lost to his Department as a result. [242749]

Ian Pearson: The number of offices processing VAT registrations was reduced from around 30 to four in 2000-01, and again from four to two in 2008.

The number of new VAT registrations has fluctuated over those years, but overall has risen from 201,015 in 2000-01 to 263,936 in 2007-08. Net VAT receipts have risen from £58 billion to £80 billion over the same period.

No estimate has been made for lost revenue, as H M Revenue and Customs does not believe that the reduction in offices has had any impact on the number of businesses registering for VAT or on total revenue received.

Working Tax Credit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the take-up rate for working tax credit by *(a)* single people and *(b)* childless couples. [243939]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of Working Tax Credit take-up rates for singles and couples without children for 2005-06, which are the latest available estimates, are provided in table 13 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2005-06". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up2005-06.pdf

The Government are taking steps to ensure that childless workers claim and receive the support they are entitled to. The 2008 pre-Budget report announced proposals including HMRC aiming to double its partnership marketing coverage of Working Tax Credit (WTC) in the coming year.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis was for his Department's estimate of the number of illegal abortions contained in paragraph 2.4 of the partial regulatory impact assessment on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [241141]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in paragraph 2.4 of the partial regulatory impact assessment (PRIA), this estimate came from the Lane Committee report (the report of the Committee on the Working of the Abortion Act set up under the chairmanship of Mrs Justice Lane and presented to Parliament in 1974) which found evidence that between 20,000 and 60,000 illegal abortions were carried out annually before the 1967 Act came into force. Therefore, in the PRIA we considered 20,000 to be a realistic minimum estimate. Furthermore, during the period 1964 to 1966 (prior to the Abortion Act) 98 women (32 a year) died as a result of illegal abortions.

Allergies: Food

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the labelling of food in restaurants and fast food outlets in relation to potential allergens; whether he plans to take steps to raise awareness of the risk of nut derivatives and other allergens in food served by such outlets; and if he will make a statement. [242628]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other Government Departments, in considering the new European Food Information proposal, which aims to increase the availability of allergen information for foods sold loose, including in catering establishments, within the European Union.

The FSA already provides best practice guidance to help businesses selling food that is not pre-packed to meet the needs of their food allergic customers and has recently introduced an interactive training module on its website that is freely available for such businesses to use. The FSA has also worked with the Sector Skills Council to ensure that training for those working in the hospitality sector covers food allergy issues as part of the food safety training.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to facilitate access to information on treatment choices for those with cancer; [242860]

(2) what plans he has to improve post-treatment support for cancer patients. [242940]

Ann Keen: We highlighted in the "Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report" published on 1 December 2008, that major progress has been made over the past year on providing high quality information to cancer patients at each step in the care pathway. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library.

The National Cancer Action Team (NCAT), with Cancer Networks across England and over 13 cancer charities, has been working to develop national cancer patient information pathways to support the delivery of information prescriptions to cancer patients.

There are plans in early 2009 to look at a primary care module of the cancer patient information delivery tool for general practitioners and other community staff, to help them to ensure that patients living with cancer have access to high quality co-ordinated information.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* root fillings and *(b)* individual tooth extractions have been carried out under the NHS dental contract in each year since 2006. [241598]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected in the form requested. Such information as is available is as follows.

Information on the incidence of certain treatments (including root-fillings and extractions) is available for a sample of courses of treatments (CoTs) processed in 2007-08, by treatment band, in Table 4a (adult courses of treatment) and Table B4 (child courses of treatment) of the Dental Treatment Band Analysis, England and Wales 2007-08 report. This information is available at England level.

The information is presented as the percentage of CoTs that included particular items of treatment, the number of items of treatment per 100 CoTs, and the average number of treatment items per CoT where the treatment occurs.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentaltba0708

Dental Services: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided for dental services in the Enfield Primary Care Trust area in each year between 1997 and 2008. [242272]

Ann Keen: Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former General Dental Service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service work they chose to undertake. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were not given fixed GDS funding allocations, except for those situations where individual Personal Dental Service pilots were established to test alternative, local commissioning arrangements and new forms of contract remuneration.

The former GDS arrangements were replaced with effect from 1 April 2006, when the Government introduced a fundamental reform programme for primary dental care services. PCTs were given responsibility for planning and commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets. The primary dental service funding allocations made to Enfield PCT for each of the three years since PCTs assumed full responsibility for primary dental care services are in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other NHS resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority.

Primary dental service net funding allocations for Enfield PCT

£000

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Allocation	10,131	10,690	11,836

Note:

PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists were registered in the Enfield Primary Care Trust area in each year between 1997 and 2008. [242275]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This measure relates to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the website of The Information Centre for health and social care at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

The number of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 is available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is available by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Further work is planned over the next few months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

The dentist numbers published are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists; nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Dental Services: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the NHS dentist to patient ratio was in the *(a)* London Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* Enfield Primary Care Trust area in each year between 1997 and 2008; [242273]

(2) how many NHS dentists there were per 100,000 people in the *(a)* London Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* Enfield Primary Care Trust area in each year between 1997 and 2008. [242274]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of persons per national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This measure relates to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

This measure is not available under the new contractual arrangements.

The number of dentists with NHS activity per 100,000 population, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is available by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This measure is not available under the old contractual arrangements.

Following a recent consultation exercise, the count of dentists is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

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Further work is planned over the next few months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

The dentist numbers published are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240983]

Phil Hope: The 2007-08 report on the disability equality duty was produced as part of an updated single equality scheme in June 2008, but this is still to be published. The proposals and conclusions on disability equality in that report are echoed in the Secretary of State for Health triennial disability equality report, which considers progress towards equality for disabled people in the health and social care sector, published on 1 December 2008.

These are:

> Equality of access to high quality health and care services is key;
>
> There is a need to continue work to break through attitudinal barriers;
>
> Information for disabled people should be fit for purpose;
>
> Consultation and involvement of disabled people needs to be more systematic;
>
> Targets for equality should be set that are clear, consistent and ambitious;
>
> Progressing disability equality requires partnership working at national, regional and local level;
>
> Greater effort is needed to put the evidence of what works into practice; and
>
> We need to build the capacity to support disabled people to live independently.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benefits in kind have been recorded as being provided to senior staff in his Department in its resource accounts for *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [241154]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were no benefits in kind reported in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 resource accounts. In 2007-08, the benefits-in-kind for David Nicholson and Bill Kirkup were second home allowances. The benefits-in-kind for Chan Wheeler were a relocation package of £41,900 and a second home allowance of £90,600.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242136]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. Decisions about training for qualifications and associated expenditure are arrived upon locally within business directorates. The information requested cannot be established from local sources without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, (b) 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241243]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is available is in the following table.

Amount spent on ministerial hospitality per financial year expressed in current prices

	£
2004-05	10,203.74
2005-06	22,993.84
2006-07	41,583.06
2007-08	18,460.30

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much members of his Department's departmental board claimed in expenses in each financial year from 2004-05 to 2007-08. [241153]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about the expenses claimed, and incurred by all members of the Departmental Board during these four financial years is not held in one place. It could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [240388]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department paid £16.4 million for cancelled in procurement Private Finance Initiative schemes in 2007.

The Department also paid £10.75 million for cancelled in procurement independent sector treatment centre schemes in the last three years.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 213 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, what the latest planned capital expenditure is for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; [241104]

(2) with reference to page 214 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, which NHS capital programmes will be changed following the change in the NHS capital budget in 2010-11; and what the change will be in each case. [241105]

Mr. Bradshaw: The sums shown in the pre-Budget report represent the capital funding available for the national health service and departmental administration. The Department plans to spend all of the available resources in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Only about £20 million per annum of this capital is used to renew the facilities used for departmental administration. The remainder is either invested in the NHS' asset base or in facilities to support the delivery of NHS services, such as the Connecting for Health programme.

The pre-Budget report brought forward £100 million of capital spending from 2010-11 into 2009-10 to advance the upgrading of up to 600 general practitioner surgeries to training practices. No other specific changes are planned as a result of the pre-Budget report.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, what contribution his Department is expected to make to the £5 billion efficiency savings in 2010-11; and how he plans to achieve such savings. [241108]

Mr. Bradshaw: As stated in the pre-Budget report, the £5 billion in efficiency savings will be allocated across Departments in Budget 2009.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department submitted to HM Treasury on its potential for efficiency savings in 2010-11 prior to the publication of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. [241386]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and the Treasury are in regular contact and work closely on value for money issues including savings in 2010-11.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242607]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State uses trains on a regular basis in the course of his official duties. The Secretary of State last travelled by train on 4 December 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Sick Leave

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of sickness absence of staff in his Department was in each of the last five years. [240380]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on average working days lost (AWDL) per member of staff due to sickness absence in the Department and its Agencies is presented in the following table:

	Coverage	*AWDL*
2007-08[1]	Core Department of Health	5.3
2006-07[1]	Core Department of Health	6.5
2005[2]	Core Department of Health	7.0
2004[2]	Department and its Agencies	3.8
2003[2]	Department and its Agencies	5.4

[1] Financial year

[2] Calendar year

The change in the figures from calendar years to financial year between 2005 and 2006-07 reflects a change in the annual period covered by the reports. The change between 2004 and 2005 from the Department and its Agencies together to the Department and its Agencies separately reflects a change in the level of aggregation of information in reporting.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid work experience or internship placements and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242113]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not, in the past, held any central records of student placements or persons on work experience, and national health service trainees. These have been arranged by local sections and directorates. It would incur disproportionate costs to collect the information requested.

Depressive Illnesses: Drugs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescribing anti-depressant drugs in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* the South West region and *(c)* England was in the last year for which figures are available. [242076]

Dawn Primarolo: The net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescriptions prescribed and dispensed in the community for anti-depressant drugs as defined in sections 4.3 of the British National Formulary (BNF) is as follows.

NIC of anti-depressant drugs (BNF section 4.3) for the financial year 2007-08

Area	*BNF name*	*NIC (£000)*
Devon primary care trust (PCT)	Antidepressant Drugs	3,687.3
South West strategic health authority (SHA)	Antidepressant Drugs	26,859.8
England	Antidepressant Drugs	264,503.2

Note:

We are unable to supply information for East Devon constituency as this is not a health region. We have supplied information for the health area that best fits East Devon, namely Devon PCT. For the South West region we have supplied the figure for South West SHA.

Source:

Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool system

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust area and *(b)* strategic health authority area. [242871]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates based on the National Diabetes Audit, suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority of them type 1 diabetes) and some experts suggest that there may also be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 have *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes in (i) England, (ii) the North West, (iii) the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and (iv) Cheadle constituency. [243072]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.[1]

[1] Data sourced from the Paediatric National Diabetes Audit and Diabetes UK

Doctors: Career Structure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of on-call time worked by junior doctors was classified as *(a)* inactive and *(b)* active at the latest date on which figures are available. [241555]

Ann Keen: The inactive and active on-call time categories are included in proposed amendments to the European working time directive (EWTD) that the European Parliament plans to consider on 17 December. The Department does not collect figures on inactive and active time.

Following the SiMAP and Jaeger European Court of Justice Rulings, any time a doctor is required to be on-call in the workplace counts as working time, even if the doctor was inactive or asleep. These rulings have virtually ended resident on-call working for doctors in training because on-call time (counted as working) significantly reduces the remaining time available for medical training and treating patients. Most doctors in training now work shift patterns.

Under the new deal contract for doctors in training, information on working patterns and hours are collected by NHS Employers. The latest figures can be accessed on their website via

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of hospitals have rota gaps; what assessment he has made of the effect of such gaps on junior doctors; and if he will list the hospitals and the departments within them that have rota gaps. [241786]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations must plan according to their priorities as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and will commission the required number of training places to develop the workforce to meet those needs. NHS workforce planning is supported by engagement with all key stakeholders, including the medical profession.

We have more doctors in training than ever before, over 46,700, and an increasing number of undergraduate medical students. Consultant numbers have increased year on year since 1997 and now stand at a record high of over 33,600.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether active on call time will begin when *(a)* a doctor receives a call, *(b)* a doctor responds to a call or *(c)* a doctor arrives with the patient; and if he will make a statement; [241787]

(2) how *(a)* inactive and *(b)* active call time is calculated; and how it will be calculated when the Working Time Directive comes into force with regard to the NHS. [241788]

Ann Keen: A doctor who receives a work related call is counted as working. The proposed changes to the European Working Time Directive (EWTD), supported by the Council of Ministers, would not change this interpretation.

Guidance on the Working Time Regulations can be found on the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's website via:

www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/employment/employmentlegislation/employmentguidance/page30342.html

The "inactive part of on-call time" has been defined as the period during which the on-call worker "has the obligation to be available at the workplace to intervene, at the employer's request, to carry out his activity or duties", but is not required to carry out his activity or duties. The active time is the period when the worker carries out his activity or duties.

Any changes to the EWTD require the support of both the European Council and the European Parliament under the co-decision process. The Parliament plan to vote on the possible amendments to the Directive on 17 December 2008. Their view will then be passed back to Council for consideration. Member states will have three years from any agreement to implement changes and the United Kingdom would consult openly before so doing.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health according to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, how many clients in each local authority structured drug treatment *(a)* had a child aged 16 years or under and *(b)* were living with a child aged 16 years or under in each of the last 10 years. [240767]

Dawn Primarolo: Although the data requested are collected via the National Drugs Treatment Monitoring System, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) have identified problems with the quality of these data and it believes that releasing these data in their current form would be misleading. The NTA are addressing these data quality issues and expect to publish these data, with an assessment of their quality, alongside their annual statistics release in October 2009.

Food: Safety

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public analyst laboratories were open in each year since 1997. [240402]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. However, we are aware that there are currently 21 public analyst laboratories in the United Kingdom.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the future of dispensing GP practices in *(a)* Kettering constituency, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* England. [243865]

Phil Hope: Following publication of the White Paper "Pharmacy in England—Building on Strengths, Delivering the Future" in April, a consultation on proposals for reform was carried out between 27 August 2008 and 20 November 2008. The consultation included partial impact assessments on the four options relating to control of entry for dispensing doctors. The impact assessments looked at the likely effect of each of the options on dispensing doctors in England—they did not look at individual localities.

We recognise the concerns that are being expressed by dispensing doctors, their staff and patients. There is no intention to abolish dispensing doctors. They play an important role in ensuring continued access to pharmaceutical services and providing patient care for those who need it. We will make our decision as quickly as possible, following full consideration of the tens of thousands of responses received.

Health Services: EU Countries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on provision of health care for British citizens who are taken ill while on holiday. [243772]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Health Insurance Card which entitles citizens of European Economic Area (EEA) to state-provided health care during a visit to any EEA country, was adopted in 2005 by all member states. The United Kingdom continues to take part in discussions with European bodies and other member states around the practicalities of the use of the card when, and if, the need arises.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* older people, *(b)* people with a learning disability, *(c)* people with a sensory impairment and *(d)* people with a physical impairment partially purchase their own care packages. [242864]

Phil Hope: These data are not held centrally.

Hospitals: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to strategic health authorities on *(a)* the closure of hospitals and *(b)* the transfer of hospital services to alternative locations. [240845]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Leading Local Change, published by the Department in May this year, makes very clear that any changes to the NHS have to be locally led and clinically driven, built upon a sound clinical case for change. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of all the reports made to the National Reporting and Learning System in December 2007 of patient safety incidents concerning malnutrition. [241427]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency's Reporting and Learning System (RLS) is a confidential incident reporting system, which relies on voluntary reports of patient safety incidents. In order to protect the confidentiality of patients and national health service staff, individual incident reports are not publicly available. It is therefore not possible to make available the reports made to the RLS in this way.

Maternity Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of pregnant women had a health and social care needs assessment by a midwife or healthcare professional within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy in the last 12 months. [240730]

Ann Keen: Data for the last 12 months on the proportion of pregnant women who had a health and social care needs assessment by a midwife or healthcare professional within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy are not yet available.

The first quarterly data that will enable an assessment of performance based on the revised data definitions that support monitoring of the public service agreement indicator will be available in mid August 2009.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to protect patients from the risk posed by the varying bioequivalence of therapies used for the same indication; and if he will make a statement. [241549]

Dawn Primarolo: All medicines are licensed in accordance with European directive 2001/83/EC on human medicinal products. Each different medication used for an indication will undergo a full and thorough evaluation of its quality, safety and efficacy by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Generic products, which are non-branded formulations of an established product that has been licensed for at least eight years in the European Community, are not required to generate original clinical data to prove the safety and efficacy of the active medicinal substance that they contain. However they are assessed for bioequivalence with the branded reference product to ensure that they have the same therapeutic effect.

Details about the product will be set out in the Summary of Product Characteristics, which helps prescribers to choose which product to prescribe by providing them with the necessary information about the use of the product, its dosage and any necessary safety warnings or precautions for use as well as information about possible side effects. An equivalent document, the Patient Information Leaflet informs and educates patients about the medicines prescribed for them including information on how to take or use it appropriately.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department of *(a)* EEA health care claims and *(b)* UK health care claims against other EEA countries was in 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of such costs in 2008-09. [241103]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the costs of European Economic Area (EEA) health care claims are made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department's accounts in accordance with Treasury resource accounting rules. For 2007-08 the totals are set out in the following table.

Resource outturn totals: 2007-08 activity

	£
Claims by EEA member states against UK	630,400,000
Claims by UK against EEA member states	45,900,000

Note:
Totals are rounded to nearest £100,000.
Source:
2007-08 Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) exercise.

The estimates of such costs for 2008-09 have yet to be completed and could not be made available in advance of the publication of the Department's 2008-09 resource accounts.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many yellow card reports the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency received in each year since 1997; to which *(a)* drug and *(b)* device each such report related; and how many such reports were made by (i) patients and (ii) healthcare professionals in each year. [241152]

Dawn Primarolo: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. Approximately 20,000 reports of ADRs are reported to the MHRA/CHM through this scheme each year. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines. Reports for adverse incidents with medical devices are not collected by the Yellow Card Scheme.

With regard to a breakdown of suspected drugs reported via the Yellow Card Scheme, due to the sheer volume of data, we refer the hon. Member to the MHRA website at:

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/daps.

At this website, Drug Analysis Prints (DAPs) can be found. DAPs are freely available in the public domain and list all suspected reactions reported for a particular medicinal active substance. A breakdown of total numbers of reports received for a particular medicinal active substance and the number of suspected reactions are also stated on a DAP.

Table 1 shows the number of suspected ADRs received by the MHRA between 1997 and 2007. The second column shows the total number of ADR reports submitted including those from marketing authorisation holders through their legal obligations. Columns three and four provide the number of reports received directly from patients and health care professionals via the Yellow Card Scheme.

Table 1

Year received by MHRA	*Total number of spontaneous suspected ADR reports received (including company ADR reports)*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports submitted directly by patients*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports submitted directly by health care professionals*
1997	16,627	0	14,181
1998	18,047	0	14,908
1999	18,484	0	14,938
2000	33,147	0	29,229
2001	21,454	0	17,256
2002	17,604	0	12,890
2003	19,218	0	13,951
2004	19,973	0	13,494
2005	21,925	949	12,585
2006	22,021	3,598	10,913
2007	21,767	1,651	10,469

Medical device related adverse incident reports are not submitted via the Yellow Card system. The MHRA operates a separate, voluntary reporting system for all medical device users. The numbers of such reports received from patients and health care professionals in the United Kingdom is given in table 2.

Table 2

Year received by MHRA	*Total number of adverse incident reports*	*Total number of adverse incident reports submitted directly by patients/members of the public*	*Total number of adverse incident reports submitted directly by health care professionals*
1997	5,383	Not applicable	3,653
1998	6,298	Not applicable	5,007
1999	6,610	Not applicable	4,297
2000	7,249	Not applicable	4,613
2001	7,896	Not applicable	5,660
2002	8,756	Not applicable	4,927
2003	8,803	Not applicable	4,204
2004	8,840	Not applicable	4,546
2005	7,862	Not applicable	3,806
2006	7,975	117	3,708
2007	8,634	103	3,429

Notes:

1. 'Patients' are included under the heading 'Patients/Members of the Public'.
2. The first full year in which reports from patients/members of the public were identified separately was 2006. Therefore for the years 1997 to 2005, this has been identified as "Not applicable".
3. MHRA records for 1979-99 contain the total number of adverse incident reports received and the percentage for each recorded report source. The figures for reports received from health care professionals for these years have been calculated using those percentages.

Mental Health: Unemployed

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to increase the capacity of mental health care services during a period of increasing unemployment; [243069]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effects on demand for mental health care services as a result of increasing rates of unemployment; [243070]

(3) what plans he has to reduce the prevalence of mental illness related to redundancy or fear of redundancy. [243071]

Phil Hope: We recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances and, in the current climate, it is understandable that people might worry more about their finances. Mental health services in England are now better prepared than ever before to provide help for these people.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 (£3.844 billion in 2001-02).

We now have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997, providing better care and support for people with mental health problems. (Full-time equivalent)

Because of the National Service Framework and increased funding, we now have over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

Further, we are investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

This programme is relieving distress and transforming lives by offering effective intervention and treatment choice to people with depression and anxiety disorders and improving the collection, recording and measuring of patients' health outcomes, producing data that allow further research.

There were 35 new services launched last month, with more than 800 therapy workers now offering this support to people who need it.

Neurology

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the NHS will demonstrate progress in planning and developing the levels of service quality described in the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions following the end of the planning period; how this demonstration of progress will be published; and what further consultation there will be on progress on the delivery of key national service frameworks objectives. [243553]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions, published in March 2005, focuses on improving services for people with neurological conditions across England. Since publication of the NSF, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activity to help local health and social care organisations take forward implementation of the NSF. This includes:

> working with key national health service, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;
>
> ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper "Our Health, Our Say" and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and
>
> work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

The NSF is for implementation over 10 years and local bodies can set their own pace of change within this period, according to local priorities. However, the Planning Framework makes clear that the NHS and local authorities will need to demonstrate that they are making progress in planning and developing the levels of service quality described in the NSF over the course of the three year planning period (2005-08).

For the first time, in 2008-09, the Healthcare Commission's Annual Healthcheck will cover primary care trust (PCT) roles both as providers and commissioners in two separate parts of the overall assessment. Assessment of PCTs as providers will include their compliance with health care and quality standards, and ongoing clinical quality investigations as appropriate. Looking at PCTs as commissioners, the Healthcare Commission will identify whether PCTs are achieving core standards and their performance against national priorities such as National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance and NSFs in their commissioning functions.

NHS Direct

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England have made calls to NHS Direct in each year since 2001; and what the estimated cost of the service was in each year. [241683]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information on calls made to NHS Direct from North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust and England is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

	Calls answered by NHS Direct that originated in North Yorkshire and York PCT	*Calls answered by NHS Direct nationally*
2003	33	5,256,329
2004	58	5,299,298
2005	8,861	5,484,724
2006	54,358	5,262,298
2007	49,283	4,737,824
Total	112,593	26,040,473

Note:
This data is only available from 2003 onwards.

	Total costs of core service (£000)
2004-05	121,372
2005-06	141,030
2006-07	[1]127,687
2007-08	124,017

[1] From 2006-07 the cost of providing the core service (0845 telephone service, NHS Direct online and digital TV services) includes the cost of providing access via the internet and digital TV. The figures in table 1 do not include contacts via the web or digital TV service.

Note:
This data is only available from 2004-05 onwards.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* net NHS expenditure, *(b)* net NHS expenditure per head and *(c)* net NHS expenditure as a proportion of GDP was in England in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [241219]

Mr. Bradshaw: The statistics requested are given in the following table. It should be noted that expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) and expenditure per head are calculated using HM Treasury published information (see notes to table). UK figures are supplied for expenditure as a proportion of GDP as GDP is published on a UK basis.

Net NHS expenditure, Net NHS expenditure/head and expenditure as a percentage of GDP

		Net NHS expenditure[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] *(£ billion)*	*Net NHS expenditure/head*[8]	*UK public health expenditure as a percentage of GDP*[9] *(%)*
Cash[1]				
1997-98	Outturn	34.664	710	5.4
1998-99	Outturn	36.608	740	5.4
1999-2000	Outturn	39.881	810	5.3
Resource Budgeting				
Stage 1[2]				
1999-2000	Outturn	40.201	—	—
2000-01	Outturn	43.932	890	5.6
2001-02	Outturn	49.021	980	5.9
2002-03	Outturn	54.042	1,082	6.2
Resource Budgeting				
Stage 2[3, 5]				
2003-04	Outturn	64.173	1,220	6.6
2004-05	Outturn	69.051	1,350	6.9
2005-06	Outturn	75.822	1,436	7.2
2006-07	Outturn	80.561	1,514	7.1
2007-08	Outturn	89.271	1,676	7.3

Notes:

Expenditure figures

[1] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.

[2] Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis.

[3] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2010-11 are on a Stage 2 Resource Budgeting basis.

[4] Figures are not consistent over the period, therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods.

[5] Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.

[6] Expenditure excludes NHS (Annually Managed Expenditure).

[7] Total Expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT Guidance Expenditure per head.

[8] Expenditure/head calculated as reported in evidence to the Public Expenditure Inquiry 2008; this uses the Health Expenditure as defined under the HM Treasury's Total Expenditure on Services (TES aggregate). This definition allows comparison on the same basis between England and the Devolved Administrations. The TES definition of Health Expenditure for England includes most Department of Health revenue resource near cash (excludes certain items e.g. grants to local authorities) plus local authority spending on health plus DIUS' Medical Research Council spending plus National Lottery spending on health.

Expenditure as percentage of GDP

[9] Expenditure as a percentage of GDP is calculated using HM Treasury data published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* net NHS expenditure, *(b)* net NHS expenditure per head and *(c)* net NHS expenditure as a proportion of GDP is planned to be in England in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [241218]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on planned net NHS expenditure and net NHS expenditure per head from 2008-09 to 2010-11 is given in the following table.

The Department does not provide forecast expenditure as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) as forecasts of GDP are the remit of HM Treasury.

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Net NHS expenditure (England) (£ million)	96,213	102,742	108,183
Population (million)	51.488	51.888	52.297
Net NHS expenditure per head (£)	1,869	1,980	2,069

Notes:

1. NHS expenditure is the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT guidance.
2. Population projection figures source: Office for National Statistics.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much independent hospitals have paid to appear on the NHS Choices website in the latest period for which figures are available. [241426]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Choices service receives no payment from any organisation in order to be listed on the NHS Choices website.

Since 1 April 2008, all patients needing elective care are entitled to choose from any provider meeting the national health service eligibility criteria, which include clinical and financial standards. This includes NHS foundation trusts, NHS acute trusts and a large number of independent sector providers and their hospitals. The information provided on NHS Choices aims to support this choice by listing details of eligible providers and key comparison information.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* agency nurses, *(b)* locum doctors and *(c)* other agency staff by each NHS organisation incurring such expenditure in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [241102]

Ann Keen: Information is available from 2001-02 for agency nursing including midwifery and health visiting staff, agency medical staff and other agency staff. This information has been placed in the Library.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been employed as *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* administrative or clinical staff in (i) North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust and (ii) England in each year since 1997; and how many were employed on a (A) permanent and (B) part-time basis. [241682]

Ann Keen: North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) was not in existence prior to 2002. It is not possible to map back prior to this as the organisation did not exist, even in another form.

A table which shows the staffing numbers from 2002 for the PCT and the numbers for England in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Training

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applicants there were for student means-tested NHS bursaries in each of the last five years; [242428]

(2) how many student applicants have been refused means-tested NHS bursaries in each of the last five years. [242429]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of applicants for the means-tested NHS bursary is not held centrally and is currently not available from the NHS Business Services Authority. The NHS Business Services Authority does not hold information about how many students have been refused a means-tested NHS bursary.

The NHS Business Services Authority has provided the following information about the number of means-tested NHS bursaries, which were assessed in each of the last five academic years.

Academic year	*Number of student means-tested NHS bursaries assessed*
2003-04	31,044
2004-05	34,083
2005-06	37,197
2006-07	39,657
2007-08	41,310

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of comments made in an official capacity by *(a)* his Chief Nursing Officer, *(b)* his Director General of Workforce and *(c)* the NHS Chief Executive on the 2006-07 pay settlement for nurses in the NHS. [241556]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any official comments made by the chief nursing officer, the director general of Workforce or the NHS chief executive, David Nicholson regarding the 2006-07 pay settlement for nurses in the NHS.

Nurses: Schools

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made towards achieving his Department's target set out in the 2004 White Paper, Choosing Health, of ensuring that there is at least one full-time, qualified school nurse working with each cluster or group of primary schools in England. [241782]

Ann Keen: Linking primary schools to their nearest secondary school gives 3,300 clusters in England. The 2007 workforce census showed there were 3,162 (2,232 full-time equivalent) qualified nurses working in school health services, an increase of 753 or 31.25 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,227 (893 whole-time equivalent) nurses with the post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 371 or 43.3 per cent. since 2004. In addition, the number of nurses working in the community increased by 28,235 (37 per cent.) between 1997 and 2007.

Obesity: Children

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children under the age of 16 years who are clinically obese in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* Cheadle constituency. [243068]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Figures by constituency are not available.

Information on the proportion of children aged two to 15 that are obese in England and broken down by Government office region and strategic health authority (SHA) is collected in the Health Survey for England.

This information can be found in "Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 2 Obesity and other risk factors in children", tables 2.2 and 2.3 on pages 35 and 36 which was published on 31 January 2008. This publication is available in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children that are obese in England, the North West Strategic Health Authority and Stockport Primary Care Trust (PCT) is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The NCMP report provides high-level analysis of the prevalence of obese children, in reception year (aged four to five years) and year 6 (aged 10-11 years), measured in England in the school year 2007-08.

This information is available in the "National Child Measurement Programme 2007/08 school year headline results" which was published on 11 December 2008. The prevalence of obese children in England is shown in table i (page 4). The prevalence of obese children at PCT level can be found in annex 1: Detailed tables, table A (pages 31-32) and the prevalence of obese children at SHA level can be found in table B (page 33). This publication has been placed in the Library.

Pharmacy

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the benefits and disbenefits which multiple dispensing licences have for dispensing appliance contractors under *(a)* the current on-cost system and *(b)* the system of remuneration proposed by his Department. [242907]

Phil Hope: Consultation on a number of proposals for legislative and structural reform to NHS pharmaceutical services arising from the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" was launched on 27 August 2008. It ended on the 20 November 2008.

The consultation included options to reform market entry arrangements for dispensing appliance contractors. An impact assessment containing the Department's assessment of possible costs and benefits was published alongside the consultation on which views and comments were invited. Responses are being analysed. We will come forward with decisions once we have fully considered these and what, if any, action is appropriate. A copy of the impact assessment that accompanied the consultation has been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 116 of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7484, whether his plans to provide free prescriptions for everyone with long-term conditions will be paid for from the planned £550 million savings in the cost of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme. [241109]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked the President of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review will take into account the views of patients, the public, patient representative bodies, clinicians and health care organisations and is due to make its recommendations to departmental Ministers in summer 2009. Following this, the Government will decide how exemption from charging can best be phased in, including how the proposed changes can be funded. The expectation is that savings in the drugs budget achieved through the new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme agreement will help fund the new exemption.

Teenage Pregnancy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the conception rate among those under the age of 18. [240726]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Since the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched in 1999, there has been a steady decline in the under-18 conception rate. Latest annual data (2006) show a rate of 40.6 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17, a fall of 12.9 per cent. from the 1998 baseline rate. The 2006 under-18 conception rate is the lowest for over 20 years.

Tackling England's high rate of teenage pregnancy rates remains a Government priority and we are determined to reduce rates further, using the lessons from local areas where rates have fallen fastest to drive progress. At a national level, the key focus will be on:

strong performance management of the minority of local areas where rates are static or increasing;

using new funding from the Department of Health to improve sexually active teenagers' access to effective contraception;

implementing the recommendations from the recent review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools; and

strengthening our communications to young people and parents.

Thalidomide: Compensation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Chemie Grunethal on obtaining compensation for British victims of thalidomide. [243600]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have not met with representatives of Chemie Grunethal. A private compensation settlement was agreed with Distillers, now part of Diageo plc, the company that marketed the drug in the United Kingdom, and the Thalidomide Trust, the charitable trust established to administer annual payments to victims.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases relating to allegations of corruption overseas are being processed by the Attorney-General's Office. [240533]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office is not currently considering any applications for consent to prosecute allegations of overseas corruption.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General what conclusions the Law Officers' Departments have reached in fulfilment of their duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240973]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) published a single equality scheme encompassing its disability equality scheme in December 2006. This scheme was significantly informed by involvement of disabled staff and community stakeholders. The scheme has been actively implemented since then. CPS accounts for delivery of the scheme through a national Community Accountability Forum, which includes both disabled staff and disabled community stakeholders.

The CPS has published an annual public report on its progress in implementing the scheme including the action plans. The CPS Community Accountability Forum (including disabled members of the forum) were consulted on this annual report. The report, which is available on the CPS website, identifies significant progress in implementation of the disability equality duty to date.

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) has recently published a single equality scheme and action plan that incorporates the disability duty. An Equality and Diversity Committee chaired by a non-executive director is responsible for ensuring that targets set in the equality action plan are complied with. The committee reports directly to the RCPO Board.

In the past year RCPO has made good progress and in June 2008 obtained the "two tick's" accreditation, which is a positive action scheme that guarantees an interview for disabled candidates who meet the minimum criteria for an advertised post. The new action plan also carries forward a target from an earlier action plan for all RCPO staff to be provided training on equality and diversity, which will include disability equality.

In addition, RCPO is currently carrying out impact assessments of its policies and functions to ensure compliance with its duties under equality legislation, including disability discrimination legislation.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) will shortly publish a review of its disability equality scheme, including updates of all local divisional assessments which are relevant to the duty. Actions taken to eliminate discrimination and promote equality include:

The conduct of an increasing number of equality impact assessments to disability equality proof TSol projects and policies;

Provision of documents in non-standard format by the public facing Bona Vacantia Division on request;

Increased awareness raising of disability issues in diversity and other training, including the introduction of specific training on deaf and visual awareness;

Increased provision of disability adjustments for individuals during the recruitment processes;

Increased provision of disability assessments and adjustments for staff employed by the Department, including adjustments for conditions such as dyslexia, and some assessments for staff working at home.

TSol has gathered evidence from all parts of its business, with each division reviewing its initial assessment under the disability equality scheme. The provision of legal services does not fall under the equality duty. All parts of the Department which carry out other functions which are relevant to the duty are taking actions to promote equality in their area, including those detailed above.

TSol is compiling the information gathered from its Disability Equality Review into a progress report which it will publish on its website in early 2009. The Diversity and Equality Group will continue to monitor progress against these assessments, consider what more we need to do to eliminate discrimination and promote equality and produce a further update report annually.

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) workforce profile including the disability status of its staff is reported on annually in the chief inspector's annual report which can be found on our website.

HMCPSI has an equality scheme covering all strands of HMCPSI's equality duties.

As part of its action plan to meet its duties HMCPSI has made clear in all its recruitment literature its commitment to identify any reasonable adjustments at the earliest opportunity and to put them in place promptly. Reasonable adjustments have been made for staff where necessary.

HMCPSI has recently reviewed its HR policies, and their application will be monitored over the coming year to ensure it is meeting all its statutory duties.

HMCPSI is in the process of commissioning a disability audit of its London premises.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) will shortly be publishing its annual report in respect of its disability equality duty. Actions taken by the SFO to eliminate discrimination and promote equality include:

appointment of a diversity champion, whose role is to oversee the implementation of all diversity policies;

compulsory attendance by all staff of a "respect and diversity" course, which seeks to raise staff awareness of the SFO's dignity at work policy;

formation of an equality and diversity committee, which meets quarterly to discuss issues of equality and diversity across the organisation;

identification and development of a stakeholder relationship with Tower Hamlets council, which achieved "beacon" status within the equality standard for local government framework, the SFO uses this resource for advice and guidance on all areas of diversity and equality;

conducting meaningful and thorough equality impact assessments;

providing on-going staff engagement and support for all disability issues, as well as the day-to-day support offered to its staff (e.g. workstation risk assessments), the SFO specifically consults with disabled people within the office to ensure that provisions for staff with disabilities are continually under review;

hosting of bi-annual diversity networking events to increase awareness of minority groups within the organisation;

the SFO's website meets the Government's standard for web accessibility in relation to visually impaired users, we are currently developing a standard paragraph in our outgoing correspondence which makes reference to any special requirements that the recipient may have (e.g. Braille or need for larger font types).

The SFO is currently undergoing a major transformation programme, and the director has pledged to make equality and diversity central to all policy and strategy decisions.

Energy Financing Team: Corruption

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General what factors the Attorney-General is taking into account in considering whether to consent to the Serious Fraud Office bringing charges against Energy Financing Team for alleged overseas corruption offences in Serbia. [240534]

The Solicitor-General: This case concluded in June 2008. The Director of the Serious Fraud Office concluded that a prosecution was not justified in this case. In considering whether to grant her consent to any prosecution, the Attorney-General applies well known prosecutorial principles in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. In cases of overseas corruption, the Attorney-General abides by Article 5 of the OECD Convention.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions the Attorney-General has had with Government departments; and what representations she has received from others on whether to consent to the bringing of charges against Energy Financing Team for alleged overseas corruption offences in Serbia. [240535]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General did not reach a decision on whether or not to consent to a prosecution of EFT because, in the event, the director of the SFO concluded on 2 June 2008 that a prosecution was not justified. The only discussions that the Attorney-General had in relation to the case were with the SFO, and the only representations that she received were from the SFO.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Solicitor-General when the investigation into the activities of Energy Financing Team in Serbia will be concluded; on what date the case was referred to the Serious Fraud Office; and on what date the Serious Fraud Office passed its report to the Attorney-General. [240582]

The Solicitor-General: The case was accepted for domestic investigation by the SFO on 7 July 2004. The former director of the SFO, Robert Wardle, submitted a request to the Attorney-General for consent to proceed with the prosecution on 12 September 2007. The current director of the SFO, Richard Alderman, made the decision to discontinue the investigation into EFT on 2 June 2008.

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General what salary was paid to the *(a)* director and *(b)* chief operating officer of HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office in 2006-07. [242162]

The Solicitor-General: The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It is a separate Government Department from HM Revenue and Customs.

Details of the salaries of the director and chief operating officer of RCPO in 2006-07 are in the public domain, having been published in the Department's Resource Accounts for 2006-07. Their salaries were £195,000 to £200,000 and £90,000 to £95,000 respectively.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arbitration: Religion

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Islamic tribunals have authority to act under the Arbitration Act 1996. [241865]

Mr. McFadden: There is no specific provision in the Arbitration Act 1996 for "Islamic Tribunals".

The Act provides a framework for the fair, speedy and cost effective resolution of disputes by an impartial tribunal. The principle behind the Act is that parties should be free to agree how their dispute is resolved. To be governed by the Act the disputing parties have to agree in writing to authorise a third party to finally resolve their dispute. The Act allows all parties to agree to have their dispute decided by a set of principles of their choice rather than by national law. If there is no agreement by all parties then national law will apply.

The Act sets out a number of safeguards including a duty to act fairly and reasonably between the parties, and giving each a reasonable opportunity of putting their case and dealing with that of their opponent. If there is a direct conflict with national law in the decision of a tribunal, national law prevails.

The Muslim Arbitration Tribunals (MAT) was established in 2007 in order to provide an alternative route to resolve civil issues in accordance with Shari'ah principles. The MAT operates according to the principles of the Arbitration Act 1996.

Bankruptcy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have gone bankrupt in each of the last three years. [240558]

Mr. McFadden: The following table records numbers of trading-related bankruptcies and company liquidations in England and Wales in each year full since 2005:

	Bankruptcy orders for self-employed individuals[1]	*Company liquidations*[2]
2005	10,839	12,893
2006	10,894	13,137
2007	7,058	12,507

[1] It should be noted that figures from the 4th quarter of 2006 onwards are based on a revised classification.

[2] Companies do not go bankrupt; they are the subject of a liquidation or other insolvency procedure. However, company liquidations are provided to supplement the individual bankruptcy information.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in each year since 2004-05, broken down by those aged *(a)* under 20, *(b)* 21 to 26, *(c)* 25 to 30, *(d)* 31 to 35, *(e)* 36 to 40 and *(f)* over 41 years old; and what estimate he has made of the number in each category which will be declared bankrupt in 2008-09. [242288]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: In the time available, the only information available is that extracted from already published reports. The statistics on the following page are taken from the report "Profiles of Bankrupts and Companies in Liquidation: 2004-05 to 2006-07"[1] and relate to England and Wales only. Equivalent information is in the process of being compiled for 2007-08, to be published in spring 2009. Official forecasts of bankruptcy numbers broken down by age groups are not undertaken; therefore no estimates are available for 2008-09.

[1]http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvencyprofessionandlegislation/policychange/profiles2004-7/profileBandC2004-7.htm

Date of birth is recorded in the majority of bankruptcy cases and may be used to calculate the age at which an individual is declared bankrupt. Bespoke analyses by specified age groups can be scheduled and carried out, but it should be noted that the age groupings requested here are not standard age bands that would be routinely published for any official statistics relating to individuals.

Number of bankruptcy orders by age group England and Wales

	No age recorded	Total all ages (where recorded)	18 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 and over
2003-4	1,730	27,949	5,255	9,453	7,229	4,226	1,451	335
2004-5	2,105	35,414	7,112	11,558	8,932	5,426	1,943	443
2005-6	2,498	51,068	10,297	15,771	13,389	7,859	3,010	742

Business for New Europe

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work has been commissioned from Business for New Europe by his Department since its inception; and at what cost. [243108]

Mr. Thomas: BERR and its predecessor DTI has cooperated with Business for New Europe (BNE) on EU events, as we have with other organisations interested in the EU, but has not commissioned any work from, or given any funding to, BNE.

Business: VAT

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what requirements there are on businesses to indicate the reduction in the price of their products made in consequence of the reduction of the rate of value added tax. [240821]

Mr. Thomas: The Price Marking Order 2004 requires traders, selling to consumers, to display a VAT inclusive selling price and, where appropriate, the unit price of goods in an unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible way. Where there is a change in VAT, a trader may for a period of 14 days, give a general notice that a VAT adjustment has been made. Thereafter, in order to comply with the order, he must display the fully inclusive selling price taking account of the revised VAT level.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to which charities his Department has provided funding of £100,000 or more in each of the last three years; and how much was given to each charity. [242084]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: The Department does not generally make charitable donations but may have given grants to charitable bodies through a number of our programmes, but the status of the organisations are not recorded. The Department, however, does provide grant-in-aid for operating purposes to the following organisations that are registered as charities. The organisations and amounts (where they are over £100,000) are as follows:

£ million

	Citizens Advice	Citizens Advice Scotland
2005-06	23,855	3,240
2006-07	21,470	2,916
2007-08	21,470	3,016
2008-09	21,470	3,389

Consumers: Super-Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what analysis his Department has conducted of the use of super-complaints. [242633]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: None have been conducted by the Department. Six super-complainants are currently designated and to date OFT has accepted nine super-complaints covering a range of markets, including care homes, doorstep selling, credit card interest calculation methods and private dentistry.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts to which his Department is a party will continue beyond 1 July 2010. [242149]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240991]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State published his report on Disability Equality on 1 December 2008. This sets out the conclusions reached by his Department in fulfilment of its duty under the disability equality duty. It also includes progress on the actions promoting equality of opportunity as set out in the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (BERR) Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008.

The Secretary of State's report can be accessed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/how-we-work/equalityschemes/page35704.html.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242130]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has devolved the responsibility for funding of relevant courses leading to qualifications to each business area. Identification of the number of staff who have undertaken qualifications in the last 12 months in each pay band would be a disproportionate cost.

Insolvency

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals were declared insolvent in each of the last five years; and how many have been registered as insolvent in the current financial year. [240651]

Mr. McFadden: The following table records the total number of individual insolvencies in each financial year since 2003-04 in England and Wales.

Financial year	*Individual insolvencies[1] in England and Wales*
2003-04	37,843
2004-05	49,175
2005-06	78,333
2006-07	112,585
2007-08	102,028
2008-09[2]	53,454

[1] Including bankruptcy orders and individual voluntary arrangements (IVA.).

[2] Insolvency data for the current financial year are only available up to September 2008.

Insolvency: Hotels

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hotels went into *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary (i) administration and (ii) liquidation in each region of England and Wales in each of the last five years. [240654]

Mr. McFadden: Statistics are only available from Q3 2007 on a consistent basis and no sub-national information is available for "hotels". The following table records the number of hotels that have entered into compulsory liquidation, creditors' voluntary liquidation or administration in each quarter since 2007 Q3 in England and Wales as a whole.

Insolvency procedure	*2007 Q3*	*2007 Q4*	*2008 Q1*	*2008 Q2*	*2008 Q3*
Compulsory liquidation	6	8	7	12	n/a
Creditors' voluntary liquidation	10	8	3	11	13
Administration	0	4	8	5	2

Note:

1. There have been changes over recent years to the classification and extent of sectoral information collected and analysed. Consistent data are only readily available on a quarterly basis from 2007 Q3.
2. Industry-level data are not currently available on a regional basis.
3. Data for compulsory liquidations for 2008 Q3 are not yet available.
4. Companies may enter consecutively into more than one type of insolvency procedure. For example, an establishment may enter into administration, but subsequently become the subject of a creditors' voluntary liquidation. This means that counts should not be summed to a total number of company insolvencies in the sector.
5. Figures for corporate receiverships, and for small business bankruptcies among hotel proprietors are not included in the above figures.

Low Pay

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are paid at a rate below the national minimum wage in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [242372]

Mr. McFadden: Information on earnings is taken from the ONS' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) dataset for 2008. Information for local authority level and individual parliamentary constituencies is not readily available in the ASHE dataset. However, information is available on a government office region basis and for the UK.

(a) The ONS estimates that around 288,000 jobs are paid below the National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates (£3.40/£4.60/£5.52) in the UK in 2007-08.

(b) In the North East, around 20,000 jobs are paid below the NMW rates.

These estimates do not measure non-compliance because some employees, undergoing certain apprenticeships and training, are either exempt or legitimately have lower rates.

Members' Interests

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 907W, on Members' interests, if he will place in the Library a copy of the declaration made by the Secretary of State to the Permanent Secretary of his Department. [242046]

Mr. McFadden: As stated in the Ministerial Code, the personal information which Ministers disclose to those who advise them is treated in confidence. However, an annual statement covering relevant Ministers' interests will be published.

Office of Fair Trading: Market Studies

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the purpose is of the use of market studies by the Office of Fair Trading. [242057]

Mr. McFadden: Section 5 of the Enterprise Act 2002 gives the OFT the function of obtaining and reviewing information relating to any of its functions, both in respect of competition and consumer matters. This information-gathering role, which may involve research, is with a view to the OFT having the information it needs to make decisions and carry out its functions.

Market studies were introduced by the OFT as a means of identifying and addressing all aspects of market failure, from competition issues to consumer detriment and the effect of Government regulations. Market studies can be either short (often fact-finding) or full.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory

Reform whether an assessment has been made of the value for money offered by the market studies conducted by the Office of Fair Trading. [242540]

Mr. Thomas: No specific assessment has been made by the Department since the regime came into force. However, the overarching regulatory impact assessment prepared for the Enterprise Act 2002 said that the overall benefits of the measures in the Act would strengthen competitive pressures in the economy and improve consumer protection. The Office of Fair Trading has an evaluation programme which measures the impact of its interventions, which can be found at

http://www.oft.gov.uk/shared_oft/about_oft/oft862.pdf

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of market studies undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading since 2003 related to public sector operations. [242594]

Mr. Thomas: This is matter for the independent Office of Fair Trading. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply to the hon. Member directly.

Official Visits: Russia

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations Ministers met during the visit to Moscow between Monday 27 October and Wednesday 29 October 2008. [242146]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform met the following individuals and organisations during his visit to Moscow between 27 October and Wednesday 29 October.

Sergei Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Igor Shuvalov, First Deputy PM
Alexsey Kudrin, Deputy PM and Finance Minister
Arkadiy Dvorkovitch, Assistant of the President
Anatoliy Chubais, CEO, RosNanoTech
German Gref, CEO, Sberbank
Aleksey Mordashov, General Director, Severstal
Evgeniy Yasin, Rector, Higher School of Economics

He also attended a number of events where he met multiple business representatives and organisations across a range of areas. These included British business investors in the Russian market, Russian and British representatives from the financial services industry; economic and political analysts, Russian SMEs, energy companies, academics and others.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the members were of the business delegation supported by his Department that visited Moscow between 27 October and 29 October 2008. [242147]

Mr. Thomas: Members of the accompanying business delegation were:

Richard Lambert, DG, CBI;
Tim Eggar, Chair and President of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce (RBCC);
Alex Robinson, Executive Director, Aviva;
Richard Spies, President, BP Russia;
Robert Webb, General Counsel, BA;
Scott Halliday, UK Managing Partner, Ernst and Young;
Tim Burnhope, Deputy MD, JCB Sales;
Tracey Pierce, Head of Equity Primary Markets, LSE;
Simon Chivers, Country Manager, Mace Group;
Peter Hambro, Hambro Mining;
Maurice Topiol, Chairman, Rothschild Russia, NM Rothschild and Sons;
Sir Philip Thomas, Senior Advisor, Shell;
Reas Kondraschow, Group Development Director, Whitbread.

Post Offices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* post office branches and *(b)* post office branches per head of population in England in (i) hamlets and isolated dwellings, (ii) villages, (iii) towns and fringe settlements and (iv) settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [243171]

Mr. McFadden: In 2007, in the context of a £1.7 billion funding package to support the post office network, the Government introduced minimum access criteria to maintain a national network of post offices and, in particular to protect vulnerable consumers in deprived urban, rural and remote areas. These access criteria apply nationally and are based on the proportion of the population within specified distances from the nearest post office outlet rather than on density per head of population.

The Department does not hold data on the post office network analysed by country or region since 1997. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd. to write direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints he has received about queues at post offices in each of the last three years. [243216]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold this information in the form requested.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has discussed queues at post offices with the management of Post Office Ltd. [243217]

Mr. McFadden: I have frequent discussions with the management of Post Office Ltd on a range of issues relating to the post office network, including queuing at post offices.

Trade Policy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether UK Trade and Investment has changed its strategy in the light of the current world economic crisis. [241924]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment keeps its strategy under review to ensure that it continues to add value for the economy and for business in an increasingly globalised and competitive world. Recent reviews have aimed to ensure that UKTI is providing the best possible support to help businesses through the current economic crisis.

Recent UKTI measures announced:

new funding rules for the Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) announced on 7 November. The scheme supports more than 3,000 SMEs each year to exhibit at overseas trade fairs. The new rules, which will take effect from 1 April 2009, will double the maximum number of grants per company to six, as long as they are participating in tradeshows in more than one market;

a new £1 million package of UKTI support to help UK companies of all sizes access manufacturing value chain opportunities in India and China, announced in the Government's Manufacturing Strategy in September 2008. The target is to help 600 businesses access opportunities through this new initiative;

a new package of support to be launched by April 2009 and delivered in the English regions focused on helping innovative companies with export experience to increase their internationalisation capabilities;

the creation of a Business Ambassadors network announced by the Prime Minister on 3 October. 17 leading figures from business and universities will work with UKTI to promote the UK's excellence internationally, highlight trade and investment opportunities and help SMEs to access global markets.

Yorkshire Forward: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating costs of the regional development agency for Yorkshire, Yorkshire Forward were in the months of *(a)* July, *(b)* August, *(c)* September and *(d)* October 2008. [241970]

Mr. McFadden: Yorkshire Forward operating costs were as follows.

	£000
(a) July 2008	1,742
(b) August 2008	1,699
(c) September 2008	1,685
(d) October 2008	1,821

JUSTICE

Appeals: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals have been lodged by claimants of incapacity benefit against a decision made to stop payment of the benefit in each of the last 11 years; how many such appeals were upheld in each year; and what the average time taken from an appeal being *(a)* received and logged and *(b)* logged and resolved was in each year. [243475]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service and the Department for Work and Pensions are currently collating this information. I will write to the hon. Member very soon and place a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

Bradley Review

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish *(a)* the Bradley Review and *(b)* his response to it. [242067]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have not yet received Lord Bradley's report, but expect to do so early in the new year. On receipt, I will inform the House of the publication date as it is the intention to publish the report and Government response at the same time.

Burglary: Sentencing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals who have received a non-custodial sentence for burglary at Peterborough Crown Court since May 2005 had *(a)* up to five, *(b)* between six and nine, *(c)* between 10 and 15 and *(d)* more than 16 previous convictions; and if he will make a statement. [242758]

Maria Eagle: Between May 2005 and December 2007 (the latest date for which data are available) 34 non-custodial sentences (including any fines, community sentences, discharges and otherwise dealt with) were imposed by the Crown court in Peterborough for burglary. Data on the numbers of previous convictions are not available at court or regional level.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Cannabis: Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession will come into force. [241647]

Maria Eagle: The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) for possession of Class B drug (cannabis) will come into force in early 2009, subject to parliamentary approval.

Offences are added to the PND Scheme by means of secondary legislation subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many consent orders for child maintenance have passed through the courts in each of the last 10 years; [241941]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of consent orders that will go through the courts for child maintenance, following repeal of section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991. [241942]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of consent orders for child maintenance made by the courts is not held centrally. Statistics on disposal of applications for ancillary relief are published annually in Chapter 5 of Judicial and Court Statistics, copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library.

Analysis from the Families and Children Study 2004 showed that for 4 per cent. of parents who are eligible to receive child maintenance, the child maintenance arrangement was through a Consent Order at court. It was also possible for parents to make maintenance arrangements via the Child Support Agency or via private settlement, or to have no formal arrangements at all.

It has been estimated that an additional 7,500 to 9,500 cases may come to the courts each year to agree child maintenance, as a result of repeal of section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period. [241846]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel has a resource budget allocation of £767,000/£790,000/£814,000 for the CSR 07 period covering the financial years 2008-09; 2009-10; and 2010-11.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242140]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has supported 150 staff to work towards qualifications in the last 12 months. A full breakdown of the numbers and grades is set out in the following table.

	Number
Undergraduate	
Senior Managers	2
Band D-F	75
Managers G-F	4
Principal Officer	3
Senior Officer	3
Officer	3
Psychology Assistant	1
Administrative Officer	1
Total staff funded	92
Postgraduate	
Managers G-E	3
MOJ Band D-F	5
Pharmacist D	1
Senior Officer	1
Executive Officer	1
Psychology Assistant	2
Total staff funded	13
Masters	
Senior Managers	1
Managers G-E	9
Chaplain	1
Nurse	1
Trainee Psychologist	2
Principal Officer	1
Officer	1
Band D	2
Psychology Assistant	9
Total staff funded	27
MBA	
SCS	1
Senior Managers	2
Managers G-E	4
Senior Officer	1
Total staff funded	8
PhD	
Senior Managers	1
Forensic Psychologist	1
Managers G-E	5
Chaplain	3
Total staff funded	10

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of foreign drivers did not pay fines for motoring offences in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* the last 12 months. [241768]

Maria Eagle: Financial penalties for motoring offences can take the form of a fixed penalty notice offered by the police or a fine imposed by the courts.

Information held centrally by the Home Office on fixed penalty notices issued by the police, and the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, does not identify the nationality status of drivers issued with a financial penalty.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in his review of the application of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to private sector bodies delivering public services; and if he will make a statement. [241531]

Mr. Straw: The Government continue to assess the merits of designating additional public authorities under the Act and will publish their response to the Section 5 public consultation in due course.

Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff members in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [241799]

Mr. Wills: This information could be provided across the Ministry only at disproportionate cost as the information is maintained locally in many separate locations.

The Ministry of Justice has a Departmental wide Gifts and Hospitality Policy. This requires managers in all parts of the Department to maintain a gifts and hospitality register and ensure that all instances of offers (accepted or declined) are recorded. The policy also requires that a gift can only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and even then it must be modest and appropriate.

Government Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241956]

Maria Eagle: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Ministry of Justice's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Judicial Appointments Commission: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Judicial Appointments Commission in the current three year Comprehensive Spending Review period. [241843]

Bridget Prentice: The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission has a resource budget allocation of £1.6 million for the 2008-09 financial year. Funding Plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been settled.

Judicial Appointments Ombudsman: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in the current three-year comprehensive spending review period. [241844]

Bridget Prentice: The office of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman has a resource budget allocation of £125,000 for the 2008-09 financial year. Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been settled.

Misconduct in Public Office

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the offence of misconduct in public office in each of the last 10 years. [241615]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is only contained on paper records. While analysing the information available to my Department, questions have arisen with regard to the quality and validity of the data, including that given in an answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 896W. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is investigating this information, where possible, with the individual courts. I will write and place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House once these investigations are complete. If appropriate I will issue a correction statement.

Northern Ireland Court Service: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Court Service in the current three year comprehensive spending review period. [241845]

Bridget Prentice: The Northern Ireland Court Service has a resource budget allocation of £133 million/£132 million/£132 million for the CSR 07 period covering the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Finance

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated resource expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission in the current three-year comprehensive spending review period. [241842]

Bridget Prentice: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has a resource budget allocation of £65 million per annum for the CSR 07 period covering the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11.

Offenders: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* young offender prisoners whose nationality is unknown are being held in prison beyond the expiration of their sentence. [242064]

Maria Eagle: On Monday 8 December 2008, there were 543 prisoners being held beyond the expiration of their sentence under immigration powers. There is currently one male adult prisoner whose nationality is yet to be confirmed.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 751W, on political parties: finance, whether it is proposed that expenditure incurred by an hon. Member outside a general election period funded by party funds which disparages an individual who is *(a)* an untriggered prospective parliamentary candidate and *(b)* a triggered parliamentary candidate for the same constituency should trigger the election expenses of the hon. Member for the purposes of the new rules. [241816]

Mr. Wills: Under the proposals contained in clause 11 (election expenses incurred for a person not yet a candidate) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in Part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will constitute election expenses regulated by the candidate spending limit. For the purposes of this clause, incumbent MPs are treated in exactly the same way as other candidates. Expenditure would only be regulated by the candidate expenditure limit where it meets these conditions.

Section 90ZA(6) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 makes clear that in that Part of that Act any reference (in whatever terms) to promoting or procuring a candidate's election at the election includes doing so by prejudicing the electoral prospects of another candidate at the election.

Clause 11(4) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill inserts a new section 90ZA(5) into the 1983 Act, which provides that, in relation to election expenses, any reference in Part 2 of that Act to a candidate at an election, includes (where the context allows) a reference to a person who formally becomes a candidate at the election after the expenses are incurred.

Therefore, under the proposals contained in the Bill, expenditure which is used by candidates at the election, including spending which prejudices the electoral prospects of an individual who is or who later becomes a candidate at the election, will constitute an election expense, provided it is incurred on matters listed in Part 1 of Schedule 4A of the 1983 Act. It is immaterial whether such expenditure has been funded by party funds or other means.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the impact assessment produced for the new trigger rules for election spending, what estimate has been made of *(a)* the change in the number of candidates in general elections and *(b)* the likely number of (i) pre-trigger prospective candidates and (ii) triggered candidates that would be regulated by the new rules. [241837]

Mr. Wills: The final Impact Assessment for controls on candidate spending referred to the number of closely contested seats at the last general election, in 2005. That was on the basis that it might be inferred that a similar number of seats might be closely contested at a future general election and, as the Impact Assessment noted, it might be said that the proposals in clause 11 of the Bill would be:

> "most likely to affect candidates in marginal seats, as that is where early campaigning tends to be focused."

Because of the unique character of each election, It has not been possible to calculate the exact number of candidates that might be affected in future.

All candidates standing at a general election would be regulated by the new rules, which provide that all expenditure used by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in Part 1 of Schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which are used for the purposes of the candidate's election, are regulated by the candidate spending limit. The person's formal candidature status (whether adopted as a candidate or not) does not determine whether or not the expenditure is regulated. The purpose for which expenditure is used will be the key consideration.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 751W, on political parties: finance, whether it is proposed that money spent before a person becomes a triggered candidate shall count against the aggregate candidate spending limit if the goods or services purchased are used after the persons becomes a triggered candidate. [241838]

Mr. Wills: Clause 11 (election expenses incurred by a person not yet a candidate) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends the definition of election expenses in section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under the amended section all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will be regulated, regardless of when that expenditure is incurred. There is express provision in the Bill (in clause 11(5)) to make clear that the amendments made by that section do not apply to any expenses incurred before the commencement of that section

Therefore the status of an individual and the question of whether they have previously incurred election expenses by triggering the provisions in section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983 does not determine whether any expenditure counts towards the candidate's spending limit. The purpose for which the expenditure is used is the decisive factor—any expenditure which falls within the definition in 90ZA will be regulated by the candidate's spending limit, and subsequent expenditure captured by the definition should be aggregated and reported in line with the statutory requirements.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in what circumstances he envisages that hon. Members will trigger their own candidate spending limits prior to the calling of a general election under the proposed new trigger rules; [241839]

(2) whether it is his policy that spending by hon. Members on promoting themselves using funds other than the public purse, outside a general election period, should be considered to be promoting or initiating their candidature for the purposes of the new trigger rules on election spending. [241840]

Mr. Wills: Hon. Members of this House would be treated no differently than any other individuals campaigning for election as a candidate under section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by clause 11 (election expenses incurred for a person not yet a candidate) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill.

Amended section 90ZA will provide that all expenditure (whether before or after the calling of a general election) incurred by or on behalf of a candidate on matters listed in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will be regulated by the candidate spending limit. Expenditure is therefore regulated if it meets these conditions. The source of the funds is immaterial.

Prisoners

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners currently serving sentences in Her Majesty's prisons are beyond their original or adjusted tariff; and of these, how many are maintaining innocence of the crime for which they were convicted. [241545]

Maria Eagle: On 8 December 2008, there were 3,867 indeterminate sentenced prisoners in custody recorded as being beyond their original or adjusted tariff.

This figure is taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

No central recording of prisoners maintaining innocence is maintained. To establish how many prisoners are beyond their original and adjusted tariff and maintaining their innocence would require a manual checking of individual records, which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners On Remand

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are on remand in prisons in England and Wales, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* sex. [243260]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives figures for all prison establishments in England and Wales showing numbers on remand by *(a)* offence and *(b)* sex at end October 2008.

	Remand
All prisoners	13,598
Violence against the person	3,456
Sexual offences	950
Robbery	1,431
Burglary	1,524
Theft and Handling	1,046
Fraud and Forgery	506
Drug offences	1,779
Motoring offences	131
Other offences	1,980
Offence not recorded	795
All male prisoners	12,680
Violence against the person	3,263
Sexual offences	938
Robbery	1,373
Burglary	1,466
Theft and Handling	914
Fraud and Forgery	424
Drug offences	1,623
Motoring offences	130
Other offences	1,835
Offence not recorded	713
All female prisoners	918
Violence against the person	194
Sexual offences	12
Robbery	58
Burglary	59
Theft and Handling	132
Fraud and Forgery	82
Drug offences	155
Motoring offences	1
Other offences	145
Offence not recorded	82

These figures are taken from table 2 of the October 2008 Ministry of Justice monthly briefing to be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Children

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were born in prisons in each prison in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [242069]

Maria Eagle: Women in prison have a right to the same medical provision as women in the community and do not give birth in prison as a matter of course.

The number of babies born to women committed to prison service custody since November 2006, when the Prison Service began collecting the relevant information centrally, are as follows:

Establishment	*MBU places*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Askham Grange	10	0	3	1
Bronzefield	12	7	18	7
Cookham Wood	[2]—	0	0	[3]n/a
Downview	[2]—	2	0	0
Drake Hall	[2]—	1	0	0
East Sutton Park	[2]—	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	12	3	21	0
Foston Hall	[2]—	0	2	1
Holloway	13	5	35	7
Low Newton	[2]—	3	4	3
Morton Hall	[2]—	0	0	0
New Hall	9	3	2	7
Peterborough	12	8	11	4
Send	[2]—	0	0	0
Styal	7	5	6	4
Total	75	37	102	34

[1] April to November 2008.

[2] No Mother and Baby Unit at these establishments.

[3] Changed function to male juvenile establishment in 2007.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were being held with their mothers in prisons in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [243263]

Maria Eagle: As of 30 November 2008 there were 50 children living with their mothers in a Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) within a women's prison. They may stay in an MBU until the age of up to 18 months (depending on the individual circumstances), although there is room for flexibility in the best interests of the child, which may mean a child staying in an MBU until two years of age. They are then gradually integrated into the care of approved family or carers in the community. This could include social services where no suitable carer exists.

Prisons: Electronic Surveillance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, Official Report, column 910W, on prisons: electronic surveillance, whether the Wilson doctrine applies (1) to telephone interception and the use of electronic surveillance by the police; and if he will make a statement; [243483]

(2) to data on the hard drive of hon. Members' computers; and if he will make a statement. [243484]

Mr. Straw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace) on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

The Wilson Doctrine applies to all forms of interception that are subject to authorisation by Secretary of State warrant.

Public Records: Access

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for those without internet facilities to gain access to records held in the Public Record Office. [242761]

Mr. Wills: Public records that have been transferred to The National Archives, the Government's official archive, are available to view free of charge in its reading rooms at Kew. Access to original records is available to members of the public after providing two acceptable forms of identification and readers are able to view original records within 35 minutes. Access to surrogate records, including microform, is also free and does not require a reader's ticket.

The National Archives has recently undertaken an extensive programme of work to improve and expand its facilities. It now offers a programme of talks from records specialists and more advice surgeries for individual researchers.

For members of the public who cannot visit Kew, The National Archives offers a priced research service to undertake a search for specific documents on their behalf. It can also provide a list of independent researchers who have an in-depth knowledge of its collections to undertake research on their behalf.

Rape: Criminal Proceedings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he has commissioned on rape conviction rates in other *(a)* European and *(b)* common law jurisdictions for benchmarking purposes. [242058]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

We are always interested to learn from the experience of other countries. However, international comparisons in respect of convictions for rape are not reliable because different countries have different definitions of rape and different levels of reporting. Recording practices also vary, for instance, some countries record a crime only where there is sufficient evidence to prosecute.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he has commissioned into the potential benefits of creating separate tiers of rape offences. [242061]

Maria Eagle: A review of research into rape and sexual assault, which included the practice of gradation of sexual offences in other jurisdictions, was commissioned as part of the major review of sexual offences which informed the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The research was published in July 2000 in 'Setting the Boundaries' Volume 2. There are no plans to conduct further research in this area.

The Government take the view that rape is a very serious crime and that the seriousness of each individual case is best reflected in sentencing, in the light of the facts and considerations in the case, rather than in the creation of separate categories of offences which attempt to distinguish between more or less serious cases of rape by reference to, for example, the degree of violence used.

Rape: Victims

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what protocols he has announced for use by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority with regard to compensation payments to rape victims in cases where alcohol was involved. [242060]

Maria Eagle: The payment of compensation to victims of all violent crime is governed by the provisions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008. Guidance on the payment of compensation to victims of all types of violent crime is contained in the booklet "A Guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008". A copy of the Guidance can be obtained from CICA direct and is also available on CICA's website at:

www.cica.gov.uk

Applications received before 3 November 2008 are considered under the 2001 Scheme and its accompanying guidance.

Small Claims: Compensation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of raising the cap for payouts in the small claims court from its current level of £5,000. [241667]

Bridget Prentice: The small claims track limit was considered in the consultation paper "Case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims". As indicated in the Government's response paper, published in July 2008, 94 per cent. of respondents agreed that that the general small claims limit should remain at £5,000. The Government therefore concluded that there should be no change to this limit.

Tribunals: Witnesses

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what remedies there are for expert witnesses before tribunals who consider that their professional reputation has been damaged by statements made *(a)* in tribunal judgments and *(b)* by those presiding over the tribunal, with particular reference to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. [243471]

Bridget Prentice: Judgments by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, like all tribunals, are protected by absolute privilege. If parties to or persons associated with an appeal wish to complain about the conduct, including statements made, of a tribunal judge or member, they should contact the relevant tribunal office who will inform them whether their complaint should be sent to the tribunal president, if one exists, or to the Office for Judicial Complaints.

Complaints are dealt with in accordance with the Judicial Complaints (Tribunals) (No. 2) Rules 2008. Tribunal presidents who receive complaints, investigate them in accordance with these Rules and, if it is considered that there may be a case for formal disciplinary action, they will refer the case to the Office for Judicial Complaints. The Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice will then consider the evidence and decide what action, if any, should be taken.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received in *(a)* person and *(b)* writing from children detained in (i) a young offender institution and (ii) a secure training centre in the last 12 months. [241679]

Mr. Hanson: I have not received any personal representations. Statistics on complaints and representations made by young people in custody are not held centrally and obtaining this information would involve a search through individual records.

At Young Offender Institutions, Prison Service Order 4950 provides that governors shall enable young people in custody to raise concerns and complaints. Particular help is to be given to those who—for example because of learning disabilities—may have problems in doing so. The Youth Justice Board, through its contracts with providers requires secure training centres to have in place arrangements under which concerns and complaints can be raised. Every young offender institution and secure training centre has an advocacy service, which plays an important part in helping young people to voice concerns.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the function is of the Youth Justice Board monitors placed in each secure training centre; what qualifications are required of Youth Justice Board monitors; and how many times a Youth Justice Board monitor has raised a concern in writing relating to the safety or well-being of a child in a secure training centre in each of the last five years. [241847]

Mr. Hanson: Each secure training centre has a Youth Justice Board (YJB) monitor. All monitors are educated to NVQ Level 4 and have at least two years' experience of the criminal justice system before appointment. The monitor's function is to ensure that the YJB's objectives for the centre are being met, in compliance with the contract. Monitors have an important part to play in ensuring that safeguarding and child protection arrangements are working effectively. Responsibility for such arrangements, however, and for individual cases, lies with local authority children's services departments.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

District Heating: Whitehall

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what fuels have been used to power the Whitehall District Heating System in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242507]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information is set out in the following table.

	Fuel used	
	Gas kWhrs	*Oil kWhrs*
2003	34,945,000	531,908
2004	45,310,000	89,813
2005	52,910,313	685,290
2006	59,756,359	211,947
2007	40,855,624	32,754

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* departments and *(b)* Government buildings are served by the Whitehall District Heating System. [242509]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information is set out in the following table:

Departments and buildings served to the Whitehall District Heating System

Department	*Building*
Cabinet Office	10, 11 and 12 Downing Street
HMT and HMRC	GOGGS (Treasury)
F&CO	OPO (F&CO) Main Building
DEFRA	55 Whitehall
Cabinet Office	Admiralty Arch North and South
F&CO	Old Admiralty Building (F&CO)
Cabinet Office	22-26 Whitehall
Cabinet Office	Admiralty House
Cabinet Office	36 Whitehall
MOD	Horse Guards
Scotland House	Dover House
London School of Economics	Northumberland House
MOD	MOD Main Building
Royal United Services Institute	RUSI
Historic Palaces	Banqueting House
Welsh Office	Gwydyr House
MOD	Old War Office
Cabinet Office	70 Whitehall
Civil Service Club	Civil Service Club

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of 7-year olds in care achieved level two in literacy and numeracy at key stage 1 in each year since 1997; [241729]

(2) how many and what proportion of children in care achieved the national standard in each Key Stage 1 examination in each year since 1997. [241736]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on attainment in schools can be found in table B which shows the number eligible to sit KS1 tests and the number and percentage who have achieved at least level 2 in reading, writing and mathematics.

Information on the attainment of looked after children was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002-04 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DH/VOL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Children in Care: Free School Meals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were eligible for free school meals in each of the last five years. [240762]

Beverley Hughes: Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008', show 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after by local authorities as at 31 March 2008. The source of this publication is the SSDA903, which does not collect information on whether a child is eligible for free school meals; this information is, however, collected in the School Census which also collects information on whether a child is in care while at their school.

The most recent census data relates to January 2008. The census shows 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. The School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Children in Care: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in care did not obtain an *(a)* C grade or above in any GCSE, *(b)* C grade or above in mathematics GCSE and *(c)* C grade or above in English GCSE in 2008; [241721]

(2) what average number of GCSEs was taken by pupils in maintained schools in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; and how many GCSEs were taken on average by children in care in maintained schools in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority; [241724]

(3) how many boys in care achieved *(a)* five A* to C passes at GCSE, *(b)* five A* to C passes at GCSE, including mathematics and English, *(c)* five A* to C passes at GCSE, including mathematics, English and a science and *(d)* five A* to C passes at GCSE, including mathematics, English, science and a foreign language in each year since 1997; [241725]

(4) what proportion of white British boys in care did not achieve *(a)* any GCSE passes, *(b)* at least one GCSE pass at grade C or above, *(c)* at least five GCSEs at A* to C and *(d)* at least five A* to C GCSEs, including English and mathematics in each year between 2001 and 2008; [241726]

(5) how many and what percentage of children in care received an A or A* grade in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English literature, *(c)* English language, *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* biology, *(g)* French and *(h)* German GCSE examinations in each of the last five years; [241731]

(6) how many and what proportion of pupils in care did not attain any GCSE grades higher than a D in each year since 1997-98; [241733]

(7) what proportion of white British boys in care achieved *(a)* no GCSE passes and *(b)* fewer than five GCSE passes at grade A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1995; [241739]

(8) how many and what proportion of *(a)* pupils in care, *(b)* pupils not in care and *(c)* all pupils gained (i) no GCSEs and (ii) fewer than five A* to G grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 1999; [241506]

(9) what proportion of 15 year olds *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care achieved (i) five GCSEs at A* to C and (ii) five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [241718]

(10) how many pupils in care gained 10 good GCSEs in 2008; [241735]

(11) what proportion of *(a)* pupils in care and *(b)* all eligible pupils did not sit five GCSEs or more in 2008; [241741]

(12) what proportion of pupils in care gained five A* to C at GCSE, including English, science, mathematics and a foreign language in each of the last three years. [241742]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on attainment in schools at key stage 4 can be found in table C. This shows the following:

number of pupils in year 11,

the number and percentage who sat at least one GCSE or GVNQ,

the number and percentage who achieved at least one GCSE A*-G,

the number who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-G and

the number who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C.

As the OC2 is an aggregate data collection, these figures cannot be broken down into any further detail for example by subject, number of GCSEs taken, grade, gender or ethnicity.

Information on the attainment of looked after children was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002 to 2004 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DH/VOL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Children in Care: GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in care achieved three A grades at A Level in 2008; and how many pupils in care did not gain a single grade C or above at GCSE in 2008; [241503]

(2) how many boys in care achieved three A grades at A Level in the last year for which figures are available; [241717]

(3) how many 16 to 17 year olds in care attended a sixth form college; [241719]

(4) how many children in care received an A grade in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* further mathematics, *(e)* history, *(f)* French and *(g)* German A Level in each of the last five years. [241730]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release 'Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007-England' (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on attainment in schools can be found in tables B and C; however these only cover key stages 1-4. Information on attainment for looked after children aged 16-18 (including the attainment in different subjects) or the number attending sixth form college are not collected centrally by the Department.

Children in Care: Gifted Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children who had ever been in care whilst at their present school were in their school's gifted and talented cohort in each of the last five years; [240765]

(2) how many children who had ever been in care whilst at their present school in each local authority were in their school's gifted and talented cohort at the latest date for which information is available. [240766]

Beverley Hughes: Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008", shows 47,600 children aged between 5 and 19 as being looked after by local authorities as at 31 March 2008. The source of this publication is the SSDA903, which does not collect information on whether a child is part of their school's gifted and talented cohort. Information on gifted and talented pupils is, however, collected in the School Census which also collects information on whether a child is in care while at their school.

The most recent census data relates to January 2008. The census shows 34,390 pupils aged 5 to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. The School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

The information available has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Information on gifted and talented pupils was first collected for primary and secondary schools in 2007, therefore information for the last five years is not available.

Children in Care: National Curriculum Tests

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 11 year olds in care achieved level four in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 in each year since 1997. [241732]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. The latest information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

The latest information on attainment in schools can be found in table B which shows the number eligible to sit KS2 tests and the number and percentage who have achieved at least level 4 in English, mathematics and science.

Information on the attainment of looked after children was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002-04 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DHA/OL/OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Children in Care: Oxbridge Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people offered places at either Oxford or Cambridge University in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 were in care. [241734]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Information on children looked after by local authorities is collected through the SSDA903 data collection. This collection includes information on children who are looked after, children who are adopted and children who were looked after and have left care. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008" (SFR 23/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table G1 contains information on children aged 19 who were previously looked after aged 16 and gives details of their activity at aged 19 which includes numbers and percentages in higher education.

Children in Care: Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in care are attending pupil referral units. [241737]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Information on looked after children by local authorities is collected via the annual SSDA903 data collection. This collects information on the number of looked after children and their placements but does not collect information on which schools they attend. The school census does collect information on pupils who are in care while at their school but this does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training.

Children in Care: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were children in care took unauthorised absence in the last 12 months, broken down by national curriculum year group. [241723]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on absence from school can be found in table A which shows the number who missed at least 25 days of school during the previous school year. The OC2 data collection is an aggregate data collection from local authorities and it is therefore not possible to provide this information broken down by national Curriculum year group

Children: Diabetes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to provide support for children diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement; [240409]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that schools provide appropriate support for children diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement; [241042]

(3) how much his Department has allocated for expenditure on support for children diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241072]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our guidance to schools, 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings', issued jointly with the Department of Health in 2005, encourages schools and local authorities to develop policies on the management of pupils' medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs; taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. We also produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled 'Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings'.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published a report entitled 'Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter', and has convened a group to support the implementation of best practice as set out in the report. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is represented on that group.

Also, since September 2007 schools have a duty to promote the well-being of all pupils, including those with long term medical conditions. This duty defines well-being as the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, including being healthy and staying safe.

Central Government allocates funding to local authorities based on need in their area. They then agree with their schools how funding is to be delegated. Therefore we do not dictate how much individual schools and local authorities are to spend on support for children diagnosed with diabetes.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which month he expects Lord Laming to submit his report on progress in implementing effective arrangements for safeguarding children. [241036]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming will be submitting his report to Ministers by the end of February 2009.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240990]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: DCSF's first Single Equality Scheme was published in December 2007. An update to this scheme was published online in December 2008. Summaries and conclusions of the steps taken to fulfil the obligations to the disability equality duty were included within this update.

DCSF's Single Equality Scheme can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/des/docs/single equalityscheme.doc

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [242455]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's accounting records do not collate information to this level of detail. To provide a response would be at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure, however, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity and Propriety'.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241944]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on Department for Children Schools and Families internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241231]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information in the form requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240788]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Non-consolidated bonuses paid in the Department were paid to 51 per cent. of all staff in 2007-08. Bonuses are judged on delivery of agreed objectives and behaviours.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242624]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend last used a train in the course of official duties on Thursday 27 November. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Responsibilities

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a list of the roles no longer in existence in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its bodies as a result of the Gershon review. [240604]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. A list of senior managers, managers and administrative staff who are no longer employed in the Department has been placed in the House of Commons Library. We cannot confirm whether all of these staff have left as a result of the Gershon review as the information is not collected in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) for which the Department is responsible have their own staffing arrangements. Information is not held centrally on roles no longer in existence and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department publishes a Public Bodies Report each year which includes the number of staff in each NDPB as at 31 March. The Public Bodies 2008 report is at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ndpb.

Further Education: Sittingbourne

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the Learning and Skills Council will announce its decisions on a further education college in Sittingbourne; [243209]

(2) when the Learning and Skills Council began work to identify a site for a further education college in Sittingbourne; [243210]

(3) who is responsible for deciding whether to establish a further education college in Sittingbourne. [243211]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

As the statutory planning body for post 16 education and skills, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for assessing the need for further education (FE) in each locality. Although the LSC, working with local partners, has identified a need for some additional FE provision in Sittingbourne, the evidence suggests that there is insufficient demand for a new FE college.

Canterbury and Mid-Kent Colleges continue to play a major role in offering FE to learners in Sittingbourne, along with the local schools, the new Sittingbourne Skills Centre and the new Minster Academy which is expected to offer a wide range of vocational opportunities. Canterbury College, together with Swale borough council, is investigating whether there is scope for the college to have an additional presence in the area as part of the town's regeneration plans including looking at possible sites. If the college concludes this to be appropriate, it will consult locally before putting a case to the LSC for consideration. A proposal is unlikely before Easter 2009.

The power to establish FE colleges lies with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills consulting with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and is contained within section 16 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. Such decisions usually follow proposals made by the LSC. In the event of a proposal for an existing college to locate a new site in Sittingbourne, the Secretary of State has no role in the decision. This is for the college concerned with the support of the LSC.

Learning Disability: Primary Education

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding is available to primary schools in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties in 2008-09. [243967]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Funding data specifically for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties is not collected by the Department. However, according to the available information, Essex LA's 2008-09 Section 52 Budget statement reports that the West Chelmsford maintained primary schools received an indicative SEN allocation of £2.2 million.

The following table provides the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in Essex local authority and England for 2008-09:

	£	
	Essex LA	*England*
ISB for special schools (Table 1)	28,406,000	1,505,407,000
Funding delegated to nursery schools identified as "notional SEN"	15,000	11,660,000
Funding delegated to primary schools identified as "notional SEN"	32,756,000	1,152,319,000
Funding delegated to secondary schools identified as "notional SEN"	27,572,000	879,302,000
Total SEN funding delegated to schools	88,748,000	3,548,688,000
Centrally retained SEN element of the school budget	31,921,000	1,185,141,000
SEN element of the LA budget	5,332,000	365,229,000
Total planned expenditure on the education of children with SEN	126,001,000	5,099,058,000

Notes:

1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.
2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. During 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the table (Essex LA budgeted £13.3 million for SEN transport expenditure).
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.
4. The data are drawn from Local Authorities Table 2 of their Section 52 Budget statements. The statements are collected by DCSF under section 52 of the Schools Standard & Framework Act 1998.
5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 10 December 2008

Local Authorities: Disabled

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to issue its disability audit tool to local authorities. [242937]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Work on the disability audit tool is at an early stage as commissioned research upon which it is to be based was only published at the end of November. The Department expects it to be developed during the early part of 2009 with the assistance of the researcher and a working group of stakeholders with the aim of issuing it by the beginning of the next school year.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children who attended Sure Start centres received level 2 or above at key stage 1 for all years for which data are available. [240591]

Beverley Hughes: Data collected on levels attained by children at key stage 1 do not include information on whether they attended a Sure Start centre. It is therefore not possible to state what percentage of children who previously attended Sure Start centres achieved level 2 or above at key stage 1.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which primary schools have been visited by members of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum as part of their research for the report. [242461]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Members of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum have visited 43 schools as part of their research for the report, to date:

Gallions Primary School
Weydon School
Argyle Primary School
Bournville Junior School
Clunbury CofE Primary School
Bute House Preparatory School
The Deans Primary School
Grosvenor Road Primary School
Mills Hill Primary School
Vigo Junior School
The Colleton Primary School
Edinbarnet Primary School
Our Lady of Loretto Primary School
Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre
Houston Primary School
St. Fillan's Primary School
Redlands Primary
Walnut Tree Walk School
Torriano Junior School
John Madejski Academy
Wroxham Primary School
Woodberry Down Community Primary School
Argyle Primary School
Balsall Common Primary School
Monteney Primary School
Marlwood School
Cassop Primary School
West Kidlington Primary School
Portslade Infants School
St. George's Hanover Square CofE Primary School
Southwater Infant School
Graffham Infants School
Duncton CofE Junior School
Woolmer Hill School
Greenfields Junior School
Peacehaven Infant School
Meridian Community Primary School
Elmhurst Primary School
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
Kate Greenaway Nursery School and Children's Centre
St. Matthew's CofE School
Kelsall Community Primary School
De Havilland Primary School

Pupils: Bullying

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the requirement for schools to record all bullying incidents to be implemented; and what steps he will take to monitor those records; [243127]

(2) what definitions have been provided to schools for the purposes of recording incidents of bullying; [243490]

(3) whether he has plans for the inspection of the records kept by schools of incidents of bullying. [243489]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are planning to launch our public consultation on the proposed new duty to record incidents of bullying early in 2009 and we aim to implement it in September 2009. The new duty will require schools to record incidents of bullying at school level; they will not be required to report their records to the local authority or central Government. We currently recommend that schools record incidents of bullying and share these records with the local authority as a means of developing cross-area anti-bullying strategies, and we will continue to encourage this.

As part of the Ofsted inspection process, schools are expected to demonstrate, through the self evaluation form, the steps they have taken to minimise bullying, and the effectiveness of these steps. Evidence is provided covering issues such as what anti-bullying policies the school has implemented, how incidents of bullying are recorded, how the data collected are analysed and followed up, and with what success. We expect school bullying records will be used when completing this form.

Ofsted inspectors also gather evidence through discussions with children and young people about whether they feel safe in school, and how well they feel the school deals with bullying. School records of bullying incidents would only be checked if there was a disparity between the information provided on the self evaluation form and the information gathered from discussions with pupils.

"Bullying—Don't Suffer in Silence: An anti-bullying pack for schools (DfEE 0064/2000, updated September 2002)" defines bullying as:

> "Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated overtime, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."

Our suite of guidance "Safe to Learn", published in 2007, reiterates this definition, and expands upon it, giving examples of what behaviours could count as bullying:

> "Bullying includes: name-calling; taunting; mocking; making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; pushing; taking belongings; inappropriate text messaging and emailing; sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups; and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours." (Safe to Learn 1.6-1.7)

As part of our consultation process, we will ask for views on how bullying should be defined for the purposes of the new duty to record. Using the responses we receive, we will establish a clear definition of what the threshold for recording an incident of bullying will be, and communicate this to all practitioners.

Schools: Uniforms

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with HM Treasury Ministers on the application of

VAT to school uniforms in the light of the extension to 18 of participation in education, employment and training; and if he will make a statement. [243001]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: VAT issues remain a matter for HM Treasury. My Department has no plans to discuss VAT on school uniforms with the Treasury.

Current guidance on school uniform states that governing bodies should give high priority to cost when setting a school uniform policy, and states that no school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling socially excluded.

Science: GCSE

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained schools were entered for individual science GCSE examinations in *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics in each year since 1992. [240805]

Jim Knight: Readily available information on the number and proportion of pupils in maintained schools who were entered for physics, chemistry and biology is shown in the following table:

	Number of entries			*Percentage of entries*		
	Physics	*Chemistry*	*Biology*	*Physics*	*Chemistry*	*Biology*
2007	36,586	36,718	38,721	6.1	6.2	6.5
2006	34,299	34,587	36,261	5.7	5.8	6.1
2005	30,954	31,240	32,830	5.2	5.2	5.5
2004	28,302	28,509	29,613	4.7	4.8	5.0
2003	26,226	26,730	27,638	4.5	4.6	4.8
2002	23,752	23,841	24,553	4.1	4.1	4.2
2001	23,084	23,212	23,935	4.0	4.0	4.1
2000	22,399	22,389	23,133	3.9	3.9	4.0
1999	21,007	21,715	22,054	3.7	3.8	3.8

Data for 2005-07 are based on pupils at the end of KS4. Data prior to 2005 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.

Single Level Tests

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the results of the evaluations of the pilots of the single level tests. [243818]

Jim Knight: The Making Good Progress pilot is being externally evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the interim report on the first year of the pilot is due to be published on 17 December 2008. This report will include the summary of the December 2007 and June 2008 single level test results.

A final evaluation report is due in autumn 2009.

Teachers: Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on salaries for *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in 1997; and how much he expects will be spent on such salaries in 2008. [242676]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Hemel Hempstead is not available. The available information for Hertfordshire local authority is contained within the following table:

Staffing expenditure by local authority maintained schools in Hertfordshire for 1996-97 and 2007-08

	1996-97			*2007-08*		
	Teaching staff	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*	*Teaching staff*	*Education support staff*	*Other support staff*
Hertfordshire	160,892,000	67,315,000	34,189,000	428,694,000	81,463,000	69,710,000

Notes:

1. Teaching staff includes teaching staff, supply teaching staff and agency supply teachers.
2. Other school staff includes premises staff, admin staff, catering staff and other staff.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
4. The 1996-97 data are taken from the RO1 form which was collected from CLG (formerly ODPM) and the 2007-08 data taken from Section 52 Outturn statements.
5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 10 December 2008.

Truancy: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of truancy there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wiltshire in each of the last three years. [243046]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not maintain records of 'truancy'.

The latest available published information on absence, including absence by reason, is published in 'SFR05/2008: Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2006/07'. This can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000775/index.shtml

This also includes local authority data.

Young People: Drugs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the proportion of young people frequently using *(a)* illegal drugs, *(b)* alcohol and *(c)* volatile substances. [240728]

Beverley Hughes: The new 10-year Drug Strategy (February 2008) and the Youth Alcohol Action Plan (June 2008) commit the Government to reducing harm arising to young people from the misuse of drugs, alcohol and volatile substances.

The drug strategy, "Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities" identifies families as a key priority and highlights the need for early intervention and support to prevent future problems for children. It proposes a programme of intensive support services to reach the most chaotic families through programmes such as the Family Interventions Project, and Family Pathfinders to develop local systems and services that improve outcomes for families at risk.

The Youth Alcohol Action Plan sets out a number of actions to address the problems of young people's alcohol consumption. Government will provide clearer health information for parents and young people about how consumption of alcohol can affect children and young people. This will include the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines on safer drinking by young people and a comprehensive communications campaign aimed at 11 to 15-year-olds to be launched in spring 2009. The Youth Alcohol Action Plan also sets out measures to tackle the problems arising from young people drinking in public places, and to work with the alcohol industry to ensure alcohol is marketed and promoted in a responsible way.

In line with recommendations from an independent review of drug and alcohol education, Ministers announced on 30 October 2008 that personal health and social education (PHSE) would be made a statutory subject. This underlines the key role PHSE has to play in young people's personal development.

For those young people that do develop a problem, having accessible and good quality specialist treatment available for them in all areas of England is a vital part of our approach. DCSF is working closely with the National Treatment Agency to continue to improve the accessibility and quality of substance misuse treatment for young people.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Illegal Immigrants

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants in the UK. [242975]

Mr. Woolas: Since the abolition of embarkation controls, which started in 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally.

By the end of December 2008, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country.

This is one part of the biggest shake up of border security and the immigration system in a generation which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Police: Beat

12. **Mr. Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of time police officers spend on the beat. [242976]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to delivering a visible and reassuring police presence. At the end of March 2008 64.9 per cent. of police officer time was spent on frontline duties. The fourth successive annual improvement since 2003-04.

Since April 2008 there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area. The Policing Pledge includes a commitment for neighbourhood policing teams to spend at least 80 per cent. of their time visibly working on their patch.

17. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to maximise the amount of time that police officers spend on frontline policing. [242981]

Mr. Coaker: Since April there has been a neighbourhood policing team in every area. The Green Paper confirmed our commitment to reducing bureaucracy and developing technology to free up officer time. It is vitally important that the police are able to do their jobs efficiently, without being constrained by unnecessary bureaucracy.

The policing pledge includes a commitment for neighbourhood policing teams to spend at least 80 per cent. of their time visibly working on their patch.

20. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of time police officers spend on the beat. [242985]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to delivering a visible and reassuring police presence. At the end of March 2008 64.9 per cent. of police officer time was spent on frontline duties. The fourth successive annual improvement since 2003-04.

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Police: Public Confidence

13. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made on the implementation of the single central target for public confidence in policing; and if she will make a statement. [242977]

Mr. Coaker: The single target is a hard-edged measure about raising public confidence that their local crime and antisocial behaviour priorities are tackled. The Home Office will be writing to police forces and authorities shortly about their targets.

Alcohol-related Crime

14. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat alcohol-induced crime. [242978]

Jacqui Smith: The Government have made a number of such assessments. In the most recently published report? The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: an evaluation (2008) by Hough et al, it was found that crimes involving serious violent crime may have reduced and local residents were less likely to say that drunk and rowdy behaviour was a problem.

As I have stated, the Government are determined to crack down further on alcohol related crime and disorder, this is why I announced last week a new mandatory code of practice to target the most irresponsible retail practices, a £3 million cash injection for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships for enforcement activities in 190 areas and a further £1.5 million for our priority areas.

21. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat alcohol-induced crime. [242986]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have made a number of such assessments. In the most recently published report, 'The impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on Levels of Crime and Disorder: An Evaluation' (2008) by Hough et al, it was found that crimes involving serious violent crime may have reduced and local residents were less likely to say that drunk and rowdy behaviour was a problem.

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Kingsnorth Climate Camp

15. **David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues since 27 October 2008 on the policing of the Kingsnorth climate camp. [242979]

Mr. Coaker: I have had no discussions with ministerial colleagues on the policing of the Kingsnorth Climate Camp since 27 October 2008.

Policing Pledge

16. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of progress towards delivering the policing pledge. [242980]

Mr. Coaker: The policing pledge is an essential part of the reform programme to increase public confidence in how crime is tackled and justice delivered. That is why I am delighted that all 43 chief constables have committed to deliver the pledge by the end of the year.

Police Entry, Search and Seizure Powers

18. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from police officers on police powers of entry, search and seizure; and if she will make a statement. [242983]

Mr. Coaker: We have received 44 responses from police officers and policing organisations to the public consultation on the Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and these include comments on powers of entry search and seizure.

The consultation period ended on 28 November 2008 and a summary of responses will be published early in the new year on the Home Office website.

Early Intervention Strategies Violent Crime

19. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has evaluated on the effect of early intervention strategies on levels of violent crime, with particular reference to Nottingham; and if she will make a statement. [242984]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department for Children Schools and Families has evaluated recent interventions such as family intervention projects, including those currently running in Nottingham. It shows that, among other things, intervening early with families can help to reduce levels of domestic violence and antisocial behaviour.

DNA

22. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to destroy DNA samples taken from people subsequently not convicted of the crime of which they were suspected. [242987]

Mr. Alan Campbell: DNA and fingerprints play an invaluable role in fighting crime. We are carefully considering how best to give effect to the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights.

We recognise the importance of the judgment and will publish our response to the court's findings as soon as possible.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings her Department and members of the Alcohol Education and Research Council have held to discuss her Department's 2008 advertising campaign to combat binge drinking. [242216]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There have been no meetings between Home Office officials and members of the Alcohol Education and Research Council to discuss the advertising campaign to combat binge drinking.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers have been prosecuted for persistently selling alcohol to a person under 18 years old in each of the last five years. [240546]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No data are currently available. Section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) came into effect on 1 April 2008. Court Proceedings data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent since 1 January 2005. [243121]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are currently available up to 31 December 2006 and are not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2006, 73 ASBOs were issued in the Kent Criminal Justice System (CJS) area. There were 16 ASBOs that had originally been issued by courts in the Kent CJS area, proven in court to have been breached for the first time during 2005 and 2006.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued to young people drinking and behaving anti-socially in public in each of the last five years. [240539]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. Surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003.

A National Audit Office study in December 2006 found that such interventions were highly effective in combating antisocial behaviour. 65 per cent. of people stopped behaving antisocially after one intervention; 86 per cent. after two; and 93 per cent. after three.

Asylum: Interpreters

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants did not have the services of an interpreter offered to them in proceedings relating to their claim in the last five years. [241413]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The UK Border Agency and Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) offers all asylum seekers the services of an interpreter at public expense whenever it is considered necessary in connection with proceedings relating to their application or appeal.

Belmarsh Prison

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are detained under her instruction at HM Prison Belmarsh; for how long each has been detained; and when she expects each to be released. [240998]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to individuals serving custodial sentences in prisons or who are detained for other reasons is held and collated by the Ministry of Justice. In order to obtain the requested information, so as to identify where individuals are detained, it would be necessary to examine individual Home Office and UK Border Agency records at disproportionate cost

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans she has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241180]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office participates in the Defra-led Climate Change Adaptation Programme Board. The main climate change-related issues for the Home Office are developing an estate that is resilient to climate change and ensuring that the police are prepared for the impact of a changing climate, in terms of business continuity and crime prevention and detection. The Home Office commitments and priorities are set out on the Defra climate change website:

http://www.defra.gov.Uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/programme/home-office.htm#done

There are no plans to publish a Home Office climate change strategy at this stage.

Closed Circuit Television: Crime Prevention

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the contribution closed circuit television can make to tackling crime. [242965]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government support the use of closed circuit television in tackling and reducing crime. CCTV is most effective when used along side other measures.

CCTV can also assist the detection of crime in public places and provide evidential material in identifying offenders.

A recent report by the Campbell Crime and Justice Group

http://db.c2admin.org/doc-pdf/Welsh_CCTV_review.pdf

which includes UK membership and whose review was part funded by the Home Office, included the observation that CCTV is more effective in reducing crime in the UK than in other countries.

Crimes of Violence: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100 population in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent police area in each year between 1997 and 2008. [243115]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables.

Police recorded crime statistics are not collected at constituency level, therefore figures for the Ashford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) have been provided. CDRP figures are only available from 1999-2000 to 2007-08.

These statistics have been presented in a series of separate tables to show why data are not directly comparable over the period 1997 to 2008.

Table 1: Violence against the person offences recorded by the police—1997

	Number of offences and rate per 1,000 population	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
England	233,441	5
Kent	7,445	5
Ashford	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

Table 2: Violence against the person offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number of offences and rate per 1,000 population	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
1998-99		
England	470,689	10
Kent	12,409	8
Ashford	n/a	n/a
1999-2000		
England	543,114	11
Kent	12,984	8
Ashford	921	9
2000-01		
England	562,679	11
Kent	13,122	8
Ashford	933	9
2001-02		
England	613,869	12
Kent	12,293	8
Ashford	909	9

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Violence against the person offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

Table 3: Violence against the person offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

	Number of offences and rate per 1,000 population	
	Number of offences	*Rate per 1,000 population*
2002-03		
England	781,768	16
Kent	18,358	12
Ashford	1,156	11
2003-04		
England	902,732	18
Kent	20,512	13
Ashford	1,255	12
2004-05		
England	981,646	20
Kent	22,857	14
Ashford	1,573	15
2005-06		
England	992,612	20
Kent	26,812	17
Ashford	1,548	14
2006-07		
England	976,369	19
Kent	27,554	17
Ashford	1,499	14
2007-08		
England	896,287	18
Kent	25,191	15
Ashford	1,416	13

Notes:

1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what conclusions her Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240977]

Mr. Woolas: The conclusions we have reached can be found in our combined Race, Disability and Gender Equality Scheme annual progress report which was published in May 2008. The report has been published on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/race-disability-progress-08.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2257W, on departmental marketing, department branding and marketing, how much was spent by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the UK Border Agency, *(c)* the Identity and Passport Service and *(d)* the Criminal Records Bureau and their predecessors in each of the last five years. [241517]

Jacqui Smith: The following table summarises spend of Home Office, UKBA, IPS and CRB over the last five years on branding and marketing.

£

	Home Office		*UKBA*		*IPS*		*CRB*
	Branding	*Marketing*	*Branding*	*Marketing*	*Branding*	*Marketing*	*B/M*
2003-04	80,200	8,462,070	0	0	0	410,000	0
2004-05	123,054	11,312,765	0	0	0	138,000	0
2005-06	67,613	9,348,810	0	0	0	160,000	0

£

	Home Office		*UKBA*		*IPS*		*CRB*
	Branding	*Marketing*	*Branding*	*Marketing*	*Branding*	*Marketing*	*B/M*
2006-07	66,720	13,658,673	0	0	37,825	239,000	0
2007-08	2,540	8,143,961	95,969	0	17,304	1,694,000	0

The figures provided for branding include the research and development of new brands as well as logo design and application. They include brands developed for campaigns as well as organisational brands. The Home Office branding figures also include work undertaken on behalf of executive agencies and NDPBs.

The figures provided for marketing include the research and development of campaigns, and media costs for press, radio, TV and poster advertising (exclusive of VAT and fees). The Home Office is responsible for some of the public's biggest concerns such as counter terrorism, crime and immigration. The level of marketing spend amounts to less than 1 per cent. of the Home Office overall budget. In order to match resources to priorities we focus on where we will get the most impact and value and where we will deliver the greatest return on investment.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of civil servants in her Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [240304]

Mr. Woolas: The breakdown of members by PCPS scheme, and the proportion of members in each scheme is shown in the following table:

Table 1

	Home Office and UKBA	*Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)*	*CRB*	*Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)*	*IPS*	*Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)*
Total members	21,380	—	526	—	3918	—
Classic	11,553	54.03	324	61.60	2,154	54.98
Premium	8,340	39.01	136	25.85	1,411	36.01
Classic Plus	709	3.32	5	0.95	59	1.51
Nuvos	778	3.64	61	11.60	294	7.50

The figures reflect the position as at 30 September 2008 which are the latest data that are currently available.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she last used a train in the course of her official duties. [242608]

Mr. Woolas: Monday 1 December.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [242264]

Mr. Woolas: Over the past four years the Department has recruited the following numbers of people into the fast stream.

2007-08—12 new fast streamers (five external and seven in-service)

2006-07—34 new fast streamers (27 external and seven in-service)

2005-04—37 new fast streamers (31 external and six in-service)

2004-05—37 new fast streamers (27 external and 10 in-service)

The starting salaries of people joining the fast-stream as a Higher Executive Officer (Development) from outside the Home Office is as follows:

	£
2007-08	25,046
2006-07	23,566
2005-06	22,978
2004-05	22,289

The fast stream is open to all staff between Administrative Assistant and Senior Executive Officer grades.

Statistics on intake into the fast stream as a whole are published annually on the Cabinet Office website. Copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 819-20W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242313]

Mr. Woolas: A central record is not retained of how many staff were recruited through each company in each year by the Home Department; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked. To retrieve and collate the information from individual records would incur disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Illegal Immigrants

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Border Agency, when considering the deportation of an individual to a country with which the UK does not have a Memorandum of Understanding *(a)* assesses the human rights and political situation in the relevant country each time an individual case arises and *(b)* has a general policy on the human rights and political situation of a country at any one time. [241000]

Mr. Woolas: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights against the background of the latest accurate, sourced and up-to-date country information.

The UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information Service closely monitors the situation in all countries that generate asylum seekers to the UK. The material is compiled from a wide range of reliable external information sources and reports are updated frequently and significant changes in country conditions communicated to decision makers.

The UK Border Agency will only enforce the return of individuals who they, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of international protection and who do not elect to leave the UK voluntarily.

Removal will be carried out only where it is considered both appropriate and safe to do so. This general policy applies to all removals whether or not an individual has raised an asylum or human rights claim.

Driving Under Influence: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in (i) Ashford and (ii) Kent in each year since 1997. [243120]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Offences of driving while unfit through drugs or drink are summary offences and do not feature in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The Home Office does collect data on recorded offences of 'Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)'. However, it is not possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence.

The available information for the aforementioned offence is given in the following table. Data for this offence have only been collected at local authority area level since 2000-01.

Recorded offences of causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)

	Ashford local authority area	*Kent*
1997	n/a	12
1998-99	n/a	11
1999-2000	n/a	12
2000-01	—	3
2001-02	—	10
2002-03	—	7
2003-04	—	10
2004-05	2	6
2005-06	—	12
2006-07	0	17
2007-08	2	6

Drugs: Corruption

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of corruption involving *(a)* police, *(b)* prison and *(c)* customs officers which involved illegal drugs there were in each of the last five years. [240934]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not available.

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families and *(b)* children under the age of 18 years were detained within Dungavel detention centre on 1 December 2008. [241496]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* On 1 December 2008 there was one family with two children under the age of 18 years in detention at Dungavel House.

Entry Clearances

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average to process a *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term visa application in the latest period for which figures are available. [241065]

Mr. Woolas: Average processing times for visa applications received in August 2008 are shown in the following table:

Length of stay	*Visa applications received in August 2008*	*Number resolved*	*Percentage resolved*	*Average processing time (days)*
Short-term	117,703	116,248	98.8	2.9
Long-term (more than six months)	104,559	103,943	99.4	4.7

Note:
There data are unpublished and should therefore be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System, 8 December 2008

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the UK visa system. [242967]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency operates a robust visa system that protects the UK border while taking fast and fair decisions.

The range of procedures in place, including taking of fingerprints and checking of watch lists, help ensure that only those who should be able to come to this country are granted visas.

Already the UK Border Agency have fingerprinted more than 3.5 million visa applicants and identified 4,900 cases of identity fraud. So far this year they have refused visas to nearly 20 per cent. of applicants.

Entry Clearances: Kyrgyzstan

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on Kyrgyzstan: entry clearances, what critical IT failures were responsible for frustrating the efforts of the entry clearance team in Almaty in respect of the application made on behalf of Kyrgyz musicians and performers invited to the UK by the Kyrgyz Ambassador; and if she will make a statement. [240780]

Mr. Woolas: When the musicians first attempted to submit their biometrics on 10 October there was a problem with the biometrics IT and consequently their biometrics results were not processed successfully.

When they returned on 28 October the satellite system of the Almaty office failed for reasons which have not yet been fully identified. This failure meant that post were unable to receive the results of any biometrics checks and were unable to send e-mails.

The following week (between 3-10 November) Almaty was to be transferred from a satellite connection to a leased line connection. The purpose of this connection is to provide a more robust carrier for the IT applications that are used by such a post. The supplier of the FTN service, Global Crossing (GC) has worked closely with telecom providers in the local region to allow such a connection to be possible as well as working with the technical teams within FCOS. During this installation, unforeseen technical problems were encountered by the local telecom provider that resulted in the new leased line being delayed until being made operational on the morning of 21 November.

Any loss of service is taken extremely seriously and reasonable efforts were taken to restore the service at the earliest opportunity.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the application for entry clearance to the UK in respect of musicians and performers invited by the Kyrgyz Ambassador was first received; and on what dates the application was processed in *(a)* Kyrgyzstan, *(b)* Almaty, *(c)* Astana and *(d)* London. [240781]

Mr. Woolas: The visa applications submitted by musicians and performers invited by the Kyrgyz Ambassador were received at the British Embassy Office Almaty on 10 October 2008. Due to technical difficulties the three musicians were asked to re-submit their applications on 29 October. That same day a further, but different failure in the IT system meant that post was unable to process any visa applications for two weeks. The musicians elected to retrieve their passports during this time. Their applications have yet to be processed and the British Embassy Office in Almaty is awaiting further instructions from the musicians as to whether they wish to proceed with their applications or withdraw their applications (with a full refund). Applications from these musicians and performers have not been received or processed in *(a)* Kyrgyzstan, *(c)* Astana and *(d)* London.

The UK Border Agency has reviewed whether it is possible for a Visa Application Centre, operated by its Commercial Partners, VFS, to open in Bishkek. On average, six applicants from Bishkek apply for visas every day. This low number means that it is not economically viable to operate a Visa Application Centre, although we are exploring whether we are able to partner with other countries and open a shared centre.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons, following the move of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan from Almaty to Astana, entry clearance to the UK is being processed in Almaty rather than Astana; and if she will make a statement. [240782]

Mr. Woolas: Although Astana does not process visa applications, staff there are able to accept applications from Government officials, which are then processed in Almaty. Given the number of applicants, it was not considered viable to run visa processing operations in both Astana and Almaty. It was concluded that because Almaty is a more accessible regional hub than Astana - important when considering how to deal with Kyrgyz applications, given that there is no Embassy there - and that the city is significantly larger than Astana, it was considered to be the most appropriate centre.

Forced Marriage

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many suspected cases of forced marriage were reported to *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* UK agencies abroad in the last 12 months; [241227]

(2) what timetable she has set for taking steps to assist victims of forced marriage with no recourse to public funds; [241228]

(3) what progress has been made towards full implementation of the scheme to give victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds access to assistance with their housing and living costs; [241229]

(4) what steps her Department is taking to prevent forced marriage by raising public awareness of the matter. [241230]

Mr. Woolas: During the first three quarters of 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit provided support in 196 reluctant visa sponsors cases that were dealt with by the UK Border Agency and provided consular assistance overseas in 192 cases.

Since January this year the Forced Marriage Unit has participated in over 90 outreach events to raise awareness of forced marriage in the community.

Over the next two years the Forced Marriage Unit will continue to provide a programme engagement, including rolling out pilot surgeries in selected areas in order to raise awareness and provide support around forced marriage directly to local communities and participating in a further series of regional "honour" based violence roadshows.

In March, the Home Office announced a new scheme where those supporting victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive financial support towards their housing and living costs. If someone is a victim of forced marriage and has no recourse to public funds then they will be able to apply for ILR under the Domestic Violence Rule. They may also be eligible to apply for support under the new No Recourse to Public Funds scheme, in order to receive support for their housing and living costs.

We continue to work closely with colleagues in the UKBA, the No Recourse to Public Funds Network and stakeholders, on the detail of the scheme to give victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds, access to assistance with their housing and living costs, if their application for indefinite leave to remain is successful. The scheme is currently being negotiated and will be implemented shortly.

National DNA Database

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is on the board which monitors the development of the DNA database. [240861]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database Strategy Board has responsibility for oversight of the National DNA Database, including the development of the database. Its current membership is set out in the following table.

National NDNAD strategy board—members

Name	*Title*
Mr. Gary Pugh, Director of Forensic Services, Metropolitan Police	Chairman
Mr. Stephen Webb, Home Office Policing Policy and Operations Directorate	Core member, representing Home Office
Mr. Keith Mannings, Association of Police Authorities	Core member, representing APA
Mr. David Money, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	Core member representing APA
Mr. Kevin Mathieson, Deputy Chief Constable, Tayside Police	Representing ACPO (Scotland)
Dr. Douglas Pearston	Scottish Police Services Authority
Professor Peter Hutton, University of Birmingham	Chair, NDNAD Ethics Group
Mr. Andrew Rennison	Forensic Science Regulator
Professor Stephen Bain, University of Swansea	Lay Member, representing HGC
Professor Sarah Cunningham Burley, University of Edinburgh	Lay Member, representing HGC
Dr. Simon Bramble	Head of Police Science and Forensics, NPIA
Dr. Michael Prior	NPIA NDNAD Custodian
Ms June Guiness	NPIA NDNAD Custodian DNA/Quality Adviser
Det. Insp. Stacey Dibbs, ACPO DNA Staff Officer	Secretariat

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* eliminated from inquiries and *(b)* charged as a result of the police DNA database in the last year for which figures exist; and if she will make a statement. [241998]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* People may be eliminated from inquiries by the use of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by two different methods.

The first method is by the standard operation of the NDNAD. When DNA profiles derived from traces found at crime scenes are loaded on the NDNAD they are automatically searched against the DNA profiles of all persons with a record on the NDNAD. If there is no match between the crime scene profile and the person's record the NDNAD provides no reason for the police to investigate that person. In that sense, all 4.6 million persons on the NDNAD are eliminated by every search of a crime scene profile which does not match them. If there is a match, a report is sent to the police who can carry out further investigation of this lead.

The second method is by the use of intelligence led mass screens. These take place if the police may ask members of the public in a particular area to provide their DNA voluntarily. For example, all males under the age of 40 residing within five miles of a murder might be asked to provide a DNA sample to see if it matched DNA found at the crime scene. A cumulative total is kept of the number of such screens kept since the NDNAD was set up in 1995, rather than figures for particular years. Between 1995 and 31 October 2008, there have been 391 screens resulting in the elimination of 95,629 samples. DNA provided voluntarily is used only for that particular investigation and then discarded, unless the person concerned gives explicit written agreement for it to be retained permanently on the NDNAD.

Records are not kept of the number of persons charged as a result of use of the NDNAD, as charging reflects integrated criminal investigation which may involve both DNA and non-DNA evidence. However, records are kept of the number of DNA matches and detections. Matches refer to crimes where there is a match between DNA found at the crime scene and the record of a person's DNA on the NDNAD. A detection means that a crime with a DNA match has been cleared up by the police. Crimes with a DNA match often also result in further detections for other offences (known as 'additional' DNA detections) as a result of further investigation linked to the original offence (in other words, the detection of one offence through a DNA match may also lead to other offences being solved e.g. because an offender on being presented with DNA evidence linking him to one offence confesses to other offences). In 2007-08 there were 37,376 matches, 17,614 detections, and a further 15,420 additional detections.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will bring forward proposals to remove from the national DNA database profiles of people who have not been convicted of an offence; [242009]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to limit the length of time an individual's profile may be retained on the national DNA database based on the seriousness of the offence the individual was convicted of; [242010]

(3) if she will bring forward proposals to prohibit genetic research with material from the national DNA database. [242011]

Mr. Alan Campbell: DNA and fingerprints play an invaluable role in fighting crime. We are carefully considering how best to give effect to the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. We recognise the importance of the judgment and will publish our response to the court's findings as soon as possible.

Section 64 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 provides that fingerprints, impressions of footwear or samples shall not be used for any purpose other than that related to the prevention or detection of crime, the investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution, the identification of a deceased person or the person from whom a body part came or in the interests of national security.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* working as prostitutes in the UK. [241131]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The covert and deceptive nature of the crime make it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the numbers of people who have been trafficked into the United Kingdom.

However, we estimate that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women who had been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has used to estimate the number of people who have been trafficked into the UK. [241132]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women who had been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This was a result of work by Home Office officials which formed part of a wider piece of work on the economic and social costs of organised crime.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Police Regional Intelligence Units, continues work to build a clearer picture of the nature and scale of the threat posed by all forms of trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Deportation

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who had been trafficked into the UK were deported in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [241215]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Identity Cards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether British citizens with an entry on the National Identity Register will be required to inform the Home Office when they have a child. [241604]

Jacqui Smith: It is a legal requirement for all births in the United Kingdom to be registered. However, the fact that an individual has had a child is not a registrable fact under the Identity Cards Act 2006 and so would not be included with that person's entry on the National Identity Register.

Identity Cards: EU Nationals

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the first identification cards will be issued to EEA citizens in the UK. [241650]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: In the autumn of 2009, the Identity and Passport Service will start to issue the first identity cards to British citizens and identification cards to European Economic Area citizens and Irish nationals working in sensitive roles or locations, starting with airside workers.

Identity Cards: Interviews

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the criteria will be for deciding which applicants for an identity card will be required to attend an interview in order to authenticate their identity. [241612]

Jacqui Smith: In some cases when individuals apply for registration on the National Identity Register or for a replacement identity card they will be asked to attend an interview. An interview may be necessary so as to ensure that the individual applicant is the true owner of the identity.

While the precise arrangements for interviews have yet to be finalised, we will build upon existing practice for interviewing first time adult passport applicants.

Immigration Status

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to resolve the immigration status of *(a)* Karwan Hamid Rasoul, ref. B1097175/R1061228 and *(b)* Patrick Odo, ref. HO 01064278. [illegible]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 9 December 2008.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Disciplinary Proceedings

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have been investigated for impropriety since 31 July 2006. [240136]

Mr. Woolas: The number of UK Border Agency staff (formerly Immigration and Nationality Directorate) investigated for impropriety since 31 July 2006 is 1,004. This includes attendance, discipline, bullying, harassment or discrimination, and performance issues.

Immigration: Females

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimates she has made of the cost of providing support for migrant women who have no recourse to public funds while their application for indefinite leave to remain is considered; [241027]

(2) what recent discussions she has had on the application of the recourse to public funds rule to migrant women subjected to domestic violence; [241046]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds; [241047]

(4) when she plans to begin a consultation on policy relating to migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds; [241048]

(5) what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women subject to the no recourse to public funds rule who would become eligible for retrospective support if their application for independent leave to remain were successful. [241337]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In March, the Home Office announced a new scheme where those supporting victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive financial support towards their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs, following their grant of leave. Support will not be provided by UKBA to women while their applications are outstanding. The development of the new scheme is currently being negotiated in partnership with the UKBA, the No Recourse to Public Funds Network and stakeholders.

The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect data on the number of all women who are victims of domestic violence and who have no recourse to public funds. Information is available on the number of victims who have applied for ILR on the basis of domestic violence. In the last three years there have been approximately 3,500 applications for ILR as the victim of domestic violence. It is estimated, from figures supplied by UKBA and the voluntary sector, that there are approximately 1,500 migrant women per annum who apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the domestic violence rule, approximately one in three claim to be destitute and may therefore be eligible for support under the scheme (500 per year).

There are currently no plans to launch a consultation on migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds.

The figures quoted have not been quality assured and are not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letter to her of 21 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr S. Choudhry. [241775]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the my right hon. Friend on 8 December 2008.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Brent East, dated 10 June 2008, regarding the Umbanda Temple. [242743]

Mr. Woolas: There is no trace of the letter referred to having been received in the Home Office. A copy received on 10 December does however show that the subject matter of the letter is for Communities and Local Government.

Offenders: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prolific and *(b)* other priority offenders there were in each basic command unit in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary area at (a) 30 June 2008 and (b) 30 September 2008; and if she will make a statement. [242759]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data available from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme do not distinguish between those selected as "prolific" or "other priority" offenders. They do show the total numbers classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders, based on information provided by the local schemes, and a breakdown of these numbers for Cambridgeshire constabulary, for the periods requested, is given in the following table.

Basic command unit	*CDRP/PPO scheme*	*June 2008*	*September 2008*
Southern	Cambridge	20	21
Southern	East Cambridgeshire	13	14
Southern	South Cambridgeshire	16	9
Central	Fenland	15	16
Central	Huntingdonshire	18	17
Northern	Peterborough	64	55

Offenders: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who have taken part in the prolific and other priority offenders programme in the Peterborough city council area since 2004 re-offended within 12 months of completing the programme; and if she will make a statement. [242753]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held or collected as part of the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme. The reoffending rate of Prolific and other Priority Offenders is now included as one of the Government's National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. The relevant indicator—National Indicator 30—has been included in Peterborough's Local Area Agreement, with an agreed target of a 22 per cent. reduction in re-offending among the area's Prolific and other Priority Offenders in the current year.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have taken part in the prolific and other priority offenders programme in the Peterborough City Council area since 2004; and if she will make a statement. [242754]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme provides a snapshot of the number of offenders classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders at the time at which data are provided to the Home Office. The table provides the numbers who were so classified in Peterborough at the end of March each year since the programme began.

It is not possible to derive from this a figure for the total number of offenders who have ever been classified as Prolific and other Priority Offenders in the area since the programme began, because each of the figures given does not necessarily represent a wholly new cohort.

Peterborough	*Number of PPOs*
March 2005	15
March 2006	19
March 2007	20
March 2008	29

Offensive Weapons: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years have been caught carrying a knife in each year in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [242383]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not presently possible to identify offences for those caught carrying a knife from the data centrally collected on overall recorded crime, or the penalties or sanctions that would have been associated with these offences. However, from April 2008 possession of an article with a blade or point has become a separate category in notifiable offences. Data for 2008-09 will be reported on in July 2009.

Since April 2007, police forces have been providing the Home Office with aggregate data on more serious violent offences in which a knife or sharp instrument was involved. Data relating to such offences recorded during 2007-08 were published in table 3.09 of the recent 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' statistical bulletin. This table is reproduced in Table A. Police force area is the lowest level for which we have data.

Table A: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2007-08[1]

Numbers and percentages

Police force area and region	*Total of selected serious offences*[2]		*Attempted murder*		*Wounding with intent to do GBH*		*Wounding or inflicting GBH (i.e. without intent)*[3]	
	Offences involving a knife		*Offences involving a knife*		*Offences involving a knife*		*Offences involving a knife*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Cleveland	169	20	4	40	76	38	17	12
Durham	93	16	2	67	53	27	8	4
Northumbria	351	22	1	20	140	48	64	13
North East Region	613	20	7	39	269	39	89	11
Cheshire	226	23	1	17	64	32	26	13
Cumbria	73	28	2	100	20	45	35	21
Greater Manchester	2,296	20	20	20	600	43	315	14
Lancashire	361	18	8	44	138	26	46	9
Merseyside	757	22	3	9	312	35	52	7
North West Region	3,713	21	34	21	1,134	37	474	12
Humberside	267	17	2	40	55	23	34	10
North Yorkshire	66	12	1	20	21	15	4	2
South Yorkshire	391	20	6	43	111	33	43	14
West Yorkshire	905	21	10	45	306	37	75	12
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	1,629	19	19	41	493	32	156	11
Derbyshire	167	15	2	22	49	32	28	10
Leicestershire	296	19	5	45	99	33	25	14
Lincolnshire	78	18	0	0	29	20	9	12

Table A: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2007-08[1]

Numbers and percentages

Police force area and region	*Total of selected serious offences*[2] *Offences involving a knife* No.	%	*Attempted murder* *Offences involving a knife* No.	%	*Wounding with intent to do GBH* *Offences involving a knife* No.	%	*Wounding or inflicting GBH (i.e. without intent)*[3] *Offences involving a knife* No.	%
Northamptonshire	216	17	3	27	83	42	10	5
Nottinghamshire	548	21	5	42	122	51	27	9
East Midlands Region	1,316	19	15	33	382	37	99	10
Staffordshire	219	13	1	25	34	50	75	9
Warwickshire	160	26	2	60	41	39	14	11
West Mercia	144	15	1	17	43	27	20	8
West Midlands	2,303	22	14	26	561	45	370	22
West Midlands Region	2,826	20	18	27	679	43	479	17
Bedfordshire	316	22	4	57	67	38	14	25
Cambridgeshire	100	11	3	50	21	13	16	11
Essex	289	16	6	40	89	30	10	7
Hertfordshire	222	19	8	89	46	26	35	15
Norfolk	67	12	1	100	22	15	13	12
Suffolk	118	22	2	50	33	48	42	22
East of England Region	1,112	17	24	57	278	27	130	15
London, City of	19	22	1	100	3	25	2	11
Metropolitan Police	7,409	18	59	50	878	48	869	32
London Region	7,428	18	60	61	881	48	871	32
Hampshire	388	18	7	50	88	36	108	14
Kent	327	18	10	71	94	25	32	12
Surrey	114	17	6	60	25	27	18	12
Sussex	274	20	2	29	62	47	84	24
Thames Valley	329	11	9	31	63	28	30	5
South East Region	1,432	16	34	46	332	31	272	13
Avon and Somerset	360	14	3	30	83	26	27	6
Devon and Cornwall	288	25	5	56	127	45	45	14
Dorset	47	9	0	0	20	31	11	5
Gloucestershire	85	18	1	33	15	17	4	4
Wiltshire	140	25	6	86	43	48	17	14
South West Region	920	17	15	43	290	34	104	9
England total	20,985	19	226	37	4,738	2,674	2,674	16
Dyfed-Powys	74	21	3	75	31	53	31	12
Gwent	130	17	1	50	79	22	8	5
North Wales	108	26	1	33	56	41	25	18
South Wales	685	28	0	0	333	38	46	13
Wales total	897	25	5	38	499	35	110	12
British Transport police	269	23	0	0	11	17	1	2
England and Wales	22,151	19	231	37	5,248	37	2,785	15

Numbers and percentages

Police force area and region	*Robbery of business property* *Offences involving a knife* No.	%	*Robbery of personal property* *Offences involving a knife* No.	%
Cleveland	16	40	56	12
Durham	13	45	17	11
Northumbria	45	34	101	15
North East Region	74	37	174	14
Cheshire	68	50	65	15

Numbers and percentages

Police force area and region	*Robbery of business property* *Offences involving a knife* *No.*	*%*	*Robbery of personal property* *Offences involving a knife* *No.*	*%*
Cumbria	6	75	10	23
Greater Manchester	373	30	986	16
Lancashire	41	35	128	15
Merseyside	153	35	237	19
North West Region	641	33	1,426	16
Humberside	29	31	147	16
North Yorkshire	12	40	28	13
South Yorkshire	45	29	176	16
West Yorkshire	113	32	411	16
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	199	31	762	16
Derbyshire	24	28	84	12
Leicestershire	16	25	149	15
Lincolnshire	11	39	22	16
Northamptonshire	19	18	101	13
Nottinghamshire	56	29	338	18
East Midlands Region	126	26	694	16
Staffordshire	36	30	73	12
Warwickshire	31	31	72	26
West Mercia	19	25	61	13
West Midlands	192	29	1,166	17
West Midlands Region	278	30	1,372	16
Bedfordshire	32	35	199	18
Cambridgeshire	14	19	46	8
Essex	30	17	154	14
Hertfordshire	21	24	112	17
Norfolk	7	23	24	9
Suffolk	11	31	30	13
East of England Region	115	23	565	14
London, City of	1	50	12	23
Metropolitan Police	612	18	4,991	15
London Region	613	18	5,003	15
Hampshire	33	27	152	16
Kent	43	27	148	15
Surrey	29	29	36	12
Sussex	27	29	99	12
Thames Valley	47	19	180	10
South East Region	179	25	615	13
Avon and Somerset	17	16	228	13
Devon and Cornwall	33	45	78	17
Dorset	3	11	13	6
Gloucestershire	14	38	51	20
Wiltshire	22	52	52	17
South West Region	89	31	422	14
England total	2,314	26	11,033	15
Dyfed-Powys	3	50	6	15
Gwent	10	37	32	14
North Wales	0	0	26	19
South Wales	29	42	177	23
Wales total	42	41	241	21

Numbers and percentages

Police force area and region	*Robbery of business property* *Offences involving a knife* *No.*	*%*	*Robbery of personal property* *Offences involving a knife* *No.*	*%*
British Transport Police	3	100	254	24
England and Wales	2,359	26	11,528	15

[1] Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

[2] Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

[3] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Police Authorities

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the direct election of members of police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [242982]

Mr. Coaker: The Policing Green Paper sets out proposals for the direct election of Crime and Policing Representatives (CPRs) to ensure that the police are tackling the priorities that most concern local people and that people know who to hold to account, how and when.

Police Raids

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids have been carried out by police on private homes between the hours of midnight and 5:00 am with no charges being brought on the direction of the family courts in the last 12 months. [241978]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Family courts do not have the power to make a direction to order a police raid.

Prostitution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many brothels have been raided in England and Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [240574]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not centrally collated.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the average age of people first entering into prostitution in the latest period for which information is available; and upon what research her Department's calculations are based. [241129]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's consultation paper on prostitution, Paying the Price, provides a summary of research on the age of first involvement in prostitution. This paper is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/paying_the_price.pdf?view=Binary

Racial Harassment

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [240929]

Mr. Woolas: During the last 12 months (for the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008) the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, received fewer than five official complaints of racial discrimination or racial harassment from staff against their colleagues. Further information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

All employees have a duty to respect the dignity of others at work, be mindful of the effect their behaviour may have on colleagues, and ensure their own conduct does not breach the provisions of the Home Office bullying, harassment and discrimination policy.

Under the policy, line managers are responsible for maintaining a workplace that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, confronting unacceptable behaviour wherever it arises.

Speed Limits: Motorcycles

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 269W, on speed limits: motorcycles, whether the ability to read rear licence plates on motorcycles is a requirement of the type approval process for average speed cameras. [242282]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The technical requirements which an average speed camera has to satisfy before it can be considered for type approval are set out in the Manual Distance/Time Speedmeter Handbook and the Automatic Distance/Time Speedmeter Handbook, published by the HO Scientific Development Branch and available on the HO website at:

http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/hosdb/publications

There is no specific requirement in respect of motorcycles or any other individual type of vehicle, since the cameras are intended to monitor vehicles of all types. The operational tests which devices undergo involve their use in a variety of locations and conditions and in respect of a random range of vehicle types.

Theft: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of theft or burglary have been reported in *(a)* London and *(b)* Bexley in each year since 1997. [243058]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences of theft and burglary recorded by the police. Figures for the London region and the Bexley Basic Command Unit are given in the following tables. Data for theft and burglary at Basic Command Unit level are only available from 2001-02.

Table 1: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by police—1997

	Number of offences	
	Theft	*Burglary*
London region	371,141	141,458
Bexley	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Not available.

Table 2: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number of offences	
	Theft	*Burglary*
1998-99		
London region	387,928	124,381
Bexley	[1]—	[1]—
1999-2000		
London region	430,875	129,565
Bexley	[1]—	[1]—
2000-01		
London region	420,400	112,920
Bexley	7,832	2,583
2001-02		
London region	449,982	116,493
Bexley	6,964	2,394

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by police—2002-03 to 2007-08

	Number of offences	
	Theft	*Burglary*
2002-03		
London region	469,877	113,871
Bexley	6,743	2,341
2003-04		
London region	454,289	105,815
Bexley	6,630	2,226
2004-05		
London region	416,993	101,975
Bexley	5,590	1,986
2005-06		
London region	404,975	103,876
Bexley	6,136	2,366
2006-07		
London region	370,303	97,130
Bexley	4,917	2,076
2007-08		
London region	336,613	94,265
Bexley	5,598	2,180

Note:

The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

War Crimes: Entry Clearances

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on crimes against humanity: entry clearances, how many cases considered by the war crimes team have been referred to the Metropolitan Police. [241206]

Mr. Woolas: Since 2005, the war crimes team in the UK Border Agency has referred 22 cases to the Metropolitan Police for inquiry.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on crimes against humanity: entry clearances, in how many of the cases where applicants have been refused refugee status following recommendations by the war crimes team the applicant has been granted discretionary leave and remains in the United Kingdom. [241207]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Information Database records three applicants who, following a recommendation from the war crimes team, have been refused asylum under Article 1F(a) of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees since October 2007 and who have also been granted discretionary leave. The Case Information Database is not designed to track whether individuals granted leave to remain are currently present in the United Kingdom.

These figures are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from management information which is provisional and subject to change. Prior to this period data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on crimes against humanity: entry clearances, how many cases investigated by the war crimes team involved those who were refused *(a)* naturalisation and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain and who remain resident in UK territory. [241208]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, or by undertaking further inquiries, at disproportionate cost.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to police forces on the investigation of offences involving cruelty to badgers. [242013]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government believe that the cruel treatment of badgers is unacceptable and have put in place comprehensive legislation including the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, to protect them. The Government also provide funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, which provides advice for police forces on the detection and investigation of wildlife crime. The police have primary responsibility for the investigation and enforcement of offences against badgers and all forces have officers who have responsibility for investigating wildlife offences.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the Protection of Badgers Act, sections 1(1), 1(3), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(c), 4, 5, and 10 (8), for the years 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection for Badgers Act 1992, sections 1(1), 1(3), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(c), 4, 5, and 10 (8) in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2003	10	4
2004	12	4
2005	23	11
2006	10	3
2007	20	6

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions: Wilfully killing badger Wilfully injuring badger Wilfully taking badger Wilfully attempting to kill badger Wilfully attempting to injure badger Wilfully attempting to take badger Ill-treating badger Digging for badger Selling live badger Offering to sell live badger Unlawfully marking badger Unlawfully attaching ring tag or marking device to badger Possessing or controlling thing derived from dead badger Possessing or controlling live badger Failing to comply with condition of licence.

Source:

OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 15 December 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Charity Research Support Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to the Charity Research Support Fund in each year since its creation; and what planned expenditure on the fund is for each year to 2012. [242774]

Mr. Lammy: The Department provides funding via the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). HEFCE's quality related (QR) block grant for research to higher education institutions includes a "charity support element". This element is calculated by reference to charitable research income, but is distributed as part of the QR block grant rather than as a separate fund.

Current and historic amounts of QR allocated this way are as follows:

£ million

Academic year	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England total	135.5	180.0	184.9

The amount to be allocated for 2009-10 and any subsequent year will be determined by HEFCE in due course, having regard to the resources available for distribution at the time.

Further details of the method of allocation of QR is available in the HEFCE publication 'Funding higher education in England: How HEFCE allocates its funds'.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241174]

Mr. Lammy: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the programme can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

Work already undertaken by DIUS that will help us to build our capability to adapt to climate change includes: supporting the research councils' "living with environmental change" initiative; a £1 billion interdisciplinary research and policy partnership programme; convening a high level forum tasked with using cutting edge business practice to align the skills system behind the challenges and opportunities of a low carbon, resource efficient economy; and publishing the Science and Innovation White Paper including proposals on fostering private and public sector innovation which will help us to identify technological and social solutions needed for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of buying *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in his Department and its predecessors following each change in Ministers since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [240429]

Mr. Simon: Following a competitive procurement exercise run by the Cabinet Office, DIUS adopted the Public Sector Flex contract with Fujitsu Services. Under this contract every member of the Department, including the ministerial team, has been issued with a lightweight, encrypted laptop in place of a desktop PC. The laptops are leased from Fujitsu under the terms of the contract. Mobile phones are supplied to the Department as part of a corporate contract that includes rental and call costs. The cost of a Blackberry device used by Ministers in DIUS is £100. Three Ministers have made use of this facility since the creation of DIUS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in each financial year since his Department was established. [241235]

Mr. Simon: According to our records the following has been spent on ministerial hospitality since the creation of DIUS in June 2007:

	£
2007-08	5,206.5
2008-09	4,628.49

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1129W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242308]

Mr. Simon: In the Department, the number of people that have been employed through the agencies each year are as follows:

	Reed	*Hays*	*Total*
July 2007 to December 2007	6	4	10
January 2008 to October 2008	11	9	20
Total	17	13	30

Information on the average duration of appointments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the average education maintenance allowance payment to eligible undergraduate students was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [243987]

Mr. Lammy: Undergraduate students are not eligible to receive the education maintenance allowance (EMA).

The EMA is for 16 to 19-year-olds in a programme of full-time further education, up to level 3, that meets the criteria for valid provision as determined by the Learning and Skills Council.

Education: Prisons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* per prisoner and *(b)* in total was spent on providing education in prisons in each of the last five years. [243279]

Mr. Simon: The information requested in the question is not collected centrally.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' total budget for offender skills and employment includes allocations for prison libraries and Heads of Learning and Skills. Taking that total budget, and including funds passed to the Youth Justice Board for education in young offender institutions, and dividing by the prison population at 30 June each year, produces an average spend per prisoner.

The average amount spent per prisoner on education by this Department is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Average cost per prisoner*	*Total budget (£ million)*
2003-04	1,560	116
2004-05	1,552	116
2005-06	1,836	141
2006-07	1,858	146
2007-08	1,966	156

Higher Education: Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students who were formerly children in care were admitted to a university in 2007. [241743]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Information on children looked after by local authorities is collected through the SSDA903 data collection. This collection includes information on children who are looked after, children who are adopted and children who were looked after and have left care. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008" (SFR 23/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table G1 contains information on children aged 19 who were previously looked after aged 16 and gives details of their activity at aged 19 which includes numbers and percentages in higher education.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many higher education institutions had agreed access targets with the Office for Fair Access in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; [243207]

(2) how many higher education institutions were subject to sanctions by the Office for Fair Access for failing to meet agreed access targets in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [243206]

Mr. Lammy: A higher education institution (HEI) must have in place an access agreement validated by the Director for Fair Access if they wish to charge variable fees. All such access agreements entered into by higher education institutions (HEIs) include indicators to measure progress in widening access. In the first academic year of variable fees (2006-07) 124 HEIs offering full-time publicly funded undergraduate provision had an access agreement. This rose to 128 in 2007-08.

The Director for Fair Access assesses for each year whether each institution has complied with the terms of its access agreement, and where he finds this is not the case he is empowered to impose sanctions. In his assessment for 2006-07, he found that all institutions were compliant with their access agreements, and therefore the issue of sanctions does not arise. The Director expects to publish his conclusions for 2007-08 early next year.

Higher Education: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of creating a higher education facility in the Kent Thameside growth area; and if he will make a statement. [242568]

Mr. Lammy: We said in our new "University Challenge" document published in March that locally-focused higher education not only has a role in reversing economic decline but can also be a major component of strategies of population growth, ensuring that new development has access to sources of skills and innovation. The Higher Education Funding Council for England is now looking at the responses to consultation on our new University Challenge policy but it is already clear that this is going to be a very successful policy, which has generated interest in all parts of the country. Decisions on which proposals should be supported will be exclusively for the Council.

Large Hadron Collider

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent reports he has received on the operation of the Large Hadron Collider; and if he will make a statement. [242439]

Mr. Lammy: CERN has recently completed its analysis of the incident that occurred in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) on 19 September which led to a large leak of helium and damage to a number of magnets. CERN has confirmed that the likely cause was a defective electrical connection between two of the LHC's magnets. CERN is now undertaking the necessary repairs to the LHC, and introducing additional precautionary measures so as to avoid further large helium release incidents. The repairs should be completed by end of June 2009.

Learning and Skills Council: Reorganisation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the status of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) local partnerships will be following the reorganisation of the LSC. [243375]

Mr. Simon: The White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver', set out proposals to ensure that the needs of learners (young people and adults) and employers are met by a more responsive system. Responsibility for the planning, commissioning and funding for education and training for 16 to 19 year-olds will transfer to local authorities, supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. For adults we propose to build on the demand led approach, including through the creation of a new Skills Funding Agency and strengthened advice and support services for adults and employers.

In respect of young people, local partnerships, such as the 14-to-19 Partnerships and Children's Trusts, are all being strengthened ahead of the dissolution of the LSC. At the same time the Government are working to develop stronger local area agreements and multi-area agreement proposals to ensure that all partners are clear on roles, responsibilities and outcomes. Building stronger links between local, regional and national bodies is vital to ensure the outcomes for young people, adults and employers are continuously improved. That is why local authorities will be expected to work collaboratively with one another supported by a slim-line Young People's Learning Agency.

In respect of adult skills, the Skills Funding Agency will also work with and develop existing local partnerships. It will work, for example, in partnership with the Young People's Learning Agency, regional skills and employment boards and other local and regional skills bodies to respond quickly and flexibly to national, regional and local skills needs, including drawing up statements of regional priorities and ensuring that these are reflected in multi-area agreements and local area agreements. The SFA will also work with regional development agencies and local authorities in relation to economic development and worklessness.

We are also encouraging colleges and learning providers to co-operate with each other and with other key partners in order to meet the needs of employers in relation to skills training, and also to ensure that local strategic skills needs are met.

Our proposals will require legislation, which will be introduced early in 2009, as part of the Children, Skills and Learning Bill. Until the new arrangements are in place, the Learning and Skills Council will continue to be responsible for securing the effective delivery of post 16 learning. More detail on the pre-19 proposals can be accessed via this link,

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/14-19nextsteps/.

More detail on the Skills Funding Agency can be found in the recently published 'Adult Skills Reforms: An Update', accessible via this link:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/raising_expectations.html.

Music: Copyright

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with musicians and their representatives on the Draft Copyright Term Directive. [243252]

Mr. Lammy: The Department discusses this issue regularly with representatives of the music industry, including with musicians' and performers' representatives.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of correspondence with overseas counterparts on Commonwealth scholarship funding. [233994]

Mr. Lammy: I have not had any correspondence with my counterparts in other countries on the subject of Commonwealth scholarships.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on its overseas research student award scheme. [233995]

Mr. Lammy: I have not had any discussions with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) about the Overseas Research Student Award Scheme (ORSAS). Following a full evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme, HEFCE decided earlier this year that continued investment after 2010/11 could not be justified given other competing priorities for funding.

Part-time Education: Grants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what grants are available to students studying part-time at a higher education institution; [243346]

(2) what the maximum grant available for students studying part-time at a higher education institution is; [243370]

(3) what financial aid is available for individuals studying part-time at a higher education institution to cover living expenses for the duration of the course; [243371]

(4) what advice on fees is available to individuals wishing to study part-time for a degree at a higher education institution. [243372]

Mr. Lammy: Two non-repayable grants are available to part-time students: a grant for fees and a course grant which is intended to cover the cost of books and travel. In 2008/09 the maximum fee grant is £1,180 for students who study at a rate equivalent to 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course. The maximum course grant is £255. The financial support package for part-time students has been specifically designed for them and recognizes that the needs of part-time and full-time students are not the same. Unlike full-time students, the majority of part-time students are in full-time employment, with 36 per cent. receiving full support for their fees from their employer. Therefore statutory funding for part-time students is not intended to cover living expenses. Fees for part-time courses are unregulated, thus fees will vary both from institution to institution and from course to course. Part-time students are therefore advised to get information on course fees by contacting the institution at which they want to study.

Performance Report

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects his Department's Performance Report for 2008 to be published. [243998]

Mr. Simon: The Department published its 2008 Autumn Performance Report on 11 December. The report is available at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/documents/Corporate/Corporate_strategy-Reports/APR_2008 final_version_in_pdf_format.pdf.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) when he plans to publish the terms of reference for the tuition fees review; and whether he expects the review to report before the end of 2009; [233993]

(2) how long he expects the tuition fees review to take. [243988]

Mr. Lammy: The then Secretary of State for Education and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) has already published draft terms of reference for the review in his statement to the House in January 2004. These include the rates of return and patterns of subsequent employment of those who paid variable fees. The assurances we have previously given this House made clear that there would be an independent review of tuition fees, reporting to the House, once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime. The first three years of operation will not be concluded until autumn next year. The timing and duration of the review will enable us to fulfil the commitment given to the House in 2004 that there will be no vote before 2010 at the earliest, and to enable the review to present Parliament with an evidence-based report covering the full range of the issues it has been asked to consider through its terms of reference.

Students: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students will be affected by recent changes to the maintenance grant system. [243486]

Mr. Lammy: The changes announced by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, will affect only those students starting courses in 2009/10: no current students will be affected.

Students: Loans

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students were in receipt of reduced student loans due to the availability of means-tested NHS bursaries in each of the last five years. [242427]

Mr. Lammy: Students who attend NHS funded degree courses in: medicine or dentistry (from year 5 on the undergraduate course and year 2 on the postgraduate course), chiropody (including podiatry), dietetics, occupational therapy, orthoptics, physiotherapy, prosthetics and orthotics, radiography, audiology, speech and language therapy; dental hygiene or dental therapy; nursing or midwifery are eligible for a non-repayable means-tested NHS bursary, which can be supplemented by a reduced maintenance loan.

The reduced maintenance loan is not income assessed but the amount is dependent on location of study.

The following table shows the number of English domiciled students who have received a reduced maintenance loan.

Academic Year	*Number of students*
2004/05	23,600
2005/06	25,400
2006/07	28,500
2007/08	31,900

Note:
Table includes students who may have suspended or withdrawn from their course. Figures for 2003/04 are unavailable.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will consider reducing the interest rate applied to student loans to mirror the recent reduction in the Bank of England base rate; and if he will make a statement. [243376]

Mr. Lammy: The legislative provisions for income contingent repayment student loans require that the rate of interest must: (i) be no higher than is necessary to maintain the value of the loan in real terms; and (ii) not exceed 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates of a specified group of banks[1] (the 'low interest cap'). The interest rate is normally set every September to equal the retail prices index for the previous March—currently 3.8 per cent. Following the reduction in the Bank of England base rate by the Monetary Policy Committee on 4 December 2008, all the specified banks have reduced their base rates to 2 per cent. and the low interest cap comes into play. The Student Loans Company (SLC) have therefore reduced the interest rate for income contingent loans from 3.8 per cent. to 3 per cent. with effect from 5 December 2008 until further notice. The SLC have published this information on their website and in national newspapers.

The interest rate for loans taken out before 1998 (known as 'mortgage style loans') is not affected as these loans are governed by different legislation.

[1] Bank of England; Bank of Scotland; Barclays Bank plc; Clydesdale Bank plc; Co-operative Bank plc; Coutts and Co.; HSBC Bank plc; Lloyds TSB Bank plc; Natwest Bank plc; the Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 16 December 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime Prevention: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding guidelines there are for community safety partnerships in Northern Ireland. [242931]

Paul Goggins: The community safety unit of the Northern Ireland Office has allocated a total of £6.175 million to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to deliver local initiatives and projects over the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years. The indicative allocation for each CSP has been determined using a funding formula which takes account of population, levels of recorded crime and deprivation in each locality. As part of these funding arrangements, CSPs are required to submit annual action plans supported by a strategic assessment of local needs and to agree to a set of terms and conditions. In addition, they have been directed to take cognisance of the NIO Safer Communities Public Service Agreement Key Performance Indicators around reducing antisocial behaviour incidents and violent crime and to contribute to a range of regional priorities for community safety.

Departmental Drinking Water

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental hospitality, what the origins are of the water used. [243227]

Mr. Woodward: The water used on departmental hospitality was sourced in either the UK or Ireland.

My Department's general policy is to use tap water where it is available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many litres of water were used by his Department's water coolers in each of the last 12 months. [243229]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the number of litres of water used by my Department is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My Department's general policy is to use tap water where it is available.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W, on departmental sick leave, which illnesses resulted in working days being lost. [243388]

Paul Goggins: The 15,287.57 working days lost within the Northern Ireland Office for the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 have been recorded under the following 11 categories:

Musculoskeletal;

Blood and Cardiovascular;

Respiratory;

Digestive, Endocrine, Renal;

Nervous System, Eyes, Ears;

Pregnancy-related/Post-natal;

Psychiatric/Psychological;

Viral/Bacterial Infections;

Injury/Accident/Assault;

Medical Tests and Observation; and

Non-specific/Other.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W, on departmental sick leave, how many people were absent for more than a month due to ill health in the last 12 months. [243389]

Paul Goggins: Statistics provided by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency show that 164 staff in the Northern Ireland Office had one or more periods of long-term absence due to ill health in 2007-08. Long-term absence is defined as a period of 20 working days or more.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W, on departmental sick leave, what steps are being taken to reduce the number of working days lost. [243390]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has a series of policies and procedures in place which aim to reduce the number of working days lost through illness. These include:

daily monitoring of sickness absence;

referral of absent staff to occupational health professionals for independent assessment of their fitness for work;

meetings of the Welfare Support Service with staff to focus on how to facilitate an early return to work;

staff returning from long term absence can return sooner by way of phased returns;

Welfare Support Services are available to meet with staff who are in work to help deal with issues which might otherwise cause them to be absent from work;

staff are encouraged to attend organised Health Awareness events;

fitness programmes are offered to NIO staff annually to encourage staff to improve their physical and emotional health;

variable working patterns are available to staff to enable a work life balance to be achieved;

mandatory return to work interviews are conducted to ensure that managers understand the reasons for absence and staff understand the consequences of absence;

cases where staff have repeated or persistent absence are considered individually and inefficiency due to absenteeism can ultimately lead to dismissal.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many working days have been lost through sickness absence by Northern Ireland Office staff in each of the last five years. [243391]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of working days lost through sickness absence within the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years. The Northern Ireland Office employs Northern Ireland civil servants and Home civil servants. The figure for 2003-04 includes Northern Ireland civil servants only. The remaining figures include Northern Ireland civil servants and Home civil servants.

	Total days absence
2003-04	16,592.5
2004-05	18,364.5
2005-06	17,313.3
2006-07	18,631.8
2007-08	15,986.4

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners in Northern Ireland were released into the custody of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each of the last 12 months. [244480]

Paul Goggins: From 1 December 2007 to 1 December 2008 the total number of prisoners released from custody in the Northern Ireland Prison Service to the UK Border Agency and its predecessors was 56, broken down by month as follows:

	Number
December 2007	1
January 2008	0
February 2008	2
March 2008	3
April 2008	10
May 2008	10
June 2008	7
July 2008	5
August 2008	2
September 2008	3
October 2008	4
November 2008	9

Reoffenders

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on reoffenders, what steps he is taking to reduce reoffending rates. [243439]

Paul Goggins: Under the Northern Ireland Office's PSA target of Making Communities Safer, the Department is committed to reduce re-offending in Northern Ireland. While much is being done to address re-offending across the criminal justice system, a cross-government strategic approach is essential to making significant inroads into level of re-offending. To achieve this joined-up approach:

An Inter-Ministerial Group is being established—the NIO has secured agreement from OFMDFM to the establishment of a Ministerial Group on Reducing Offending to promote a cross departmental approach and ensure that a coherent, coordinated strategy is adopted to all aspects of offending;

A women offenders strategy is under development—a specific approach to women offenders is being progressed through a women's strategy. As part of this initiative, a pilot women's centre has been established to develop appropriate assessment tools and programmes focused on sustaining and supporting women offenders in the community;

Offenders learning and skills deficits are being addressed—the NIO, in partnership with the Departments of Education and Employment and Learning, is establishing a Learning and Skills Forum. The forum will focus on making better use of existing education and skills training to provide a more joined up service for existing offenders and young people at risk of offending.

Reparation of Offenders

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which 15 community-based restorative justice schemes have been given accreditation under the Protocol for Community-based Restorative Justice Schemes. [242934]

Paul Goggins: A list of accredited community-based restorative justice schemes is maintained by the Secretary of State and is available on the Northern Ireland Office website. The 15 schemes accredited under the Protocol for Community-based Restorative Justice (CBRJ) Schemes to date are as follows:

East Belfast Alternatives, East Belfast;

Greater Shankill Alternatives, West Belfast;

North Belfast Alternatives, North Belfast;

North Down Alternatives, Bangor;

Northern Ireland Alternatives Central Office, West Belfast;

Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) Central Office, West Belfast;

CRJI Colin, Belfast;

CRJI Falls, Belfast;

CRJI Greater Andersonstown, Belfast;

CRJI Upper Springfield, Belfast;

CRJI Derry Head Office, Derry;

CRJI Ballymagroarty, Derry;

CRJI Brandywell, Derry;

CRJI Creggan, Derry; and

CRJI Shantallow, Derry.

Terrorism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases in Northern Ireland have been dealt with under the auspices of the Historical Enquiries Team; and how many of these have *(a)* resulted in judicial proceedings and *(b)* led to prosecutions. [243464]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Young Offender Institutions: Construction

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1320W, on prison construction, what recent discussions he has had on building new young offender institutions. [243446]

Paul Goggins: There have been no recent discussions on building new young offender institutions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Portcullis House: Mobile Phones

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to improve mobile telephone reception in Portcullis House. [243845]

Nick Harvey: Parliamentary ICT are nearing the completion of a project to install the infrastructure needed to allow mobile carriers to boost their signals within Portcullis House. This work has been undertaken with T Mobile which is the default carrier for Parliament's mobile computing service. Improvements to T Mobile's signal strength should be available by February 2009. Other carriers will be invited to use the infrastructure also.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242916]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland office was established on 1 July 1999. Since this date no civil servants have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing or deliberately disclosing data or confidential information stored on departmental equipment.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* taxis, *(b)* potted plants, *(c)* works of art and *(d)* redecoration in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [240381]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 12W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) with regards the Scotland Office spend on *(a)* taxis. The Office has incurred no costs on *(b)* potted plants or *(c)* works of art in 2007-08. The cost of *(d)* redecoration of its buildings in Edinburgh and London was £39,102. Under the terms of the building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242626]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I last used a train in the course of my official duties on 24 November. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

WALES

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241123]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not keep records of ministerial hospitality in this form, and the information could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to strengthen creative industries. [240274]

Andy Burnham: In February this year the Government published "Creative Britain-New Talents for a New Economy, a strategy for the Creative Economy in the UK", which sets out in 26 commitments the Government's determination to move the creative industries from the margins to the mainstream of the UK economy.

The strategy includes commitments to encourage employers to create 5,000 new apprenticeships in the creative industries by 2013, and the establishment of a new, international event for business and the creative industries—the Creativity & Business International Network (c&binet)—the first of which will take place in 2009.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W, on intellectual property, when he expects to publish updated figures for the value of the creative industries to the UK economy. [242451]

Andy Burnham: The Creative Industries Economic Estimates bulletins contain statistics on gross value added, exports, employment and numbers of businesses within the creative industries.

The publication of the 2008 bulletin has been delayed to allow additional time to investigate revisions that have been made to the source data.

The Department is aiming to publish the 2008 bulletin by the end of the year. It will be available on our website at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/4848.aspx

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241948]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the cost of including return path functionality in his Department's core receiver requirements, with particular reference to the cost of including a return path with a provision for broadband capability. [242418]

Andy Burnham: Earlier this year DCMS commissioned independent research into set-top boxes including a return path to support bi-directional interactive services. That report did not include an estimate of costs.

However, the technical experts on the Department's Emerging Technology Group, which keeps the Core Receiver Requirements under review, did arrive at an initial costing for including return path functionality to provide for broadband capability.

We will be re-examining both the rationale for and costs of enhancements to set-top-boxes as part of the Digital Britain report.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated for spending on bonuses for staff within his Department in 2008-09. [240942]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: *(a)* special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and *(b)* performance bonuses linked to the end of year staff appraisal, which are awarded to staff who have had a highly successful performance over a whole year.

All end of year bonuses for 2008-09, (for performance in 2007-08) have been paid. The total amount paid was £434,417. Of the special bonuses £100,560 has been allocated of which £25,580 has been paid.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall, North's letter of 5 November 2008 to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, transferred to his Department at the end of November regarding a constituent. [240353]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 15 December, explaining that we are unable to comment on the findings of the Community Pubs Inquiry Report at this time. However, we hope to be able to reply in full early in the new year.

Sports: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to improve community sport facilities in Coventry; [242638]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to promote sport for families in Coventry. [243082]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: Since April 2004 Sport England have awarded £3,533,934 in community sport funding to various organisations in Coventry, to improve sporting facilities and promote sport for families.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to promote sport in schools. [243081]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Through our joint PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP), the Department is working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to increase the take-up of sporting opportunities among five to 19-year-olds.

Our aim is to sustain and increase current levels of participation by those aged five to 16 in at least two hours of high quality PE and sport at school, and offer five to 19-year-olds at least three hours of sport beyond the school day, delivered by a range of school, community and club providers.

These ambitions will be realised through a range of programmes and activities delivered through Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust, and will be supported by increases in the number of coaches in schools, and a national network of competition managers within School Sport Partnerships.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on television: licensing, how many people were convicted for failing to purchase a television licence in each of the last five years; and of these how many were fined the maximum sum prescribed. [242165]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data showing the number of persons found guilty, and those issued with a fine, at all courts for Television Licence evasion in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007, the latest available, are given in the following tables:

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Table A: The number of persons found guilty at all courts of Television Licence evasion, England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2003	79,856
2004	89,240
2005	104,930
2006	115,470
2007	120,955

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in section 363 of the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

Table B: The number of persons, on conviction of Television Licence evasion offences, issued with a fine, at all courts, England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total number fined	78,923	87,735	103,716	113,985	120,114
Of which:					
Total number fined the maximum amount (£1,000)	1	2	4	12	2
Average fine amount (£)	114	132	120	129	137

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Tourism: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to promote tourism between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom. [240875]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain's marketing of England for tourism purposes includes the dissemination of material to people living on the Isle of Man. Any associated press activity is also shown in the Isle of Man. National campaigns taken forward by VisitBritain also target the Isle of Man.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for overseas marketing is in place between VisitBritain and the Isle of Man Government which sets out a framework, respective roles and responsibilities and working relationships for the benefit of promoting Britain and the Isle of Man effectively to overseas visitors. The Isle of Man Government pay VisitBritain an annual marketing fee in support of the MoU. This ensures that the Isle of Man has equivalent treatment to the other nations and regions of Britain.

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles on average were used in each training session at Castlemartin Range in the last 12 months. [242643]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average number of Armoured Fighting Vehicles used in each training package at Castlemartin Range in the last 12 months is 26.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost was to his Department of private haulage of armoured vehicles to and from Castlemartin Range in each of the last five years; [242644]

(2) what the cost was of transporting armoured vehicles to and from Castlemartin Range in each of the last five years. [242645]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many large goods vehicle movements transporting armoured vehicles to and from Castlemartin Range there were in each of the last five years; and how many of those were undertaken by *(a)* private sector vehicles and *(b)* army transporters. [242646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training sessions using armoured vehicles took place at Castlemartin Range in each of the last five years; and what the average length of each such training session was. [242647]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of training packages using armoured fighting vehicles that took place at Castlemartin Range in each of the last five years is shown below:

	Number of training packages
2004	10
2005	10
2006	13
2007	10
2008	13

The typical length of a training package is two weeks.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook helicopters the RAF possesses; and how many of these are fully serviceable. [243669]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are 40 Chinook Mk2/2a in the fleet.

'Fully serviceable' is interpreted as those aircraft in the Forward Fleet considered Fit for Purpose. Forward Fleet aircraft are those that are available to the Front Line Command for operational and training purposes, of which Fit for Purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. In the latest month for which figures are available (October) an average of 19 were considered Fit for Purpose.

Aircraft which are not Fit for Purpose are considered to be Short Term Unserviceable and are able to be brought up to standard very quickly. During October only 11 aircraft were undergoing depth repair and not able to be bought up to standard quickly. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243895]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The amount spent is £46.3 million. This figure represents expenditure in 2007-08 on public relations services (including sales marketing and advertising), service and civilian recruitment expenses and expenditure on schools and community relations initiatives. It includes expenditure by the defence agencies, but not by the MOD's trading funds and Executive non-departmental public bodies, which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours have been recorded on each of the six Merlin helicopters which were transferred from Denmark in each of the last three months. [243433]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of hours flown by each of the six Merlin helicopters acquired from the Danish Government in the last three months are shown in the following table in hours and minutes. Merlin ZK001 is still undergoing conversion at AugustaWestlands and is due to be delivered to RAF Benson on 9 January 2009.

	September	*October*	*November*
ZJ990	45:39	11:25	23:46
ZJ992	39:13	11:04	54:30
ZJ994	26:43	37:21	39:21
ZJ995	34:33	24:07	13:00
ZJ998	2:00	0	6:34
ZK001	0	0	0

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen have lost limbs while serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [242819]

Mr. Hutton: Between 1 December 2007 and 30 November 2008 a total of 24 service personnel have suffered amputations due to injuries sustained while on operational deployment; one in Iraq and 23 in Afghanistan. These amputations can range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of entire limb(s).

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the *(a)* development of Basra International Airport and *(b)* renovation of Umm Qasr port since 8 October 2007; and what contribution has been made to each project by the UK. [240834]

Mr. Hutton: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 660-63, preparing to transfer Basra International Airport to Iraqi civilian control is one of the key remaining tasks for UK forces in southern Iraq. Good progress has been made and the Iraqi civilian authorities now operate it as a civil airport during daylight hours. We remain on course formally to transfer responsibility for the airport to the Iraqi civilian authorities around the turn of the year.

Trade at Umm Qasr port has increased by 10 per cent. over the last year, and is forecast to increase by more than that again in 2009. Regeneration plans for the port are now being led and co-ordinated by the Iraqi Government, with support from Coalition personnel, including from the UK. UK personnel are providing advice and facilitation to the regeneration efforts, and UK forces are providing training to a company of Iraqi Marines guarding the port's perimeter.

Tristar Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of fitting the RAF Tristar fleet with glass cockpits is expected to be; and what his proposed timescale for these upgrades is. [243432]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cost of fitting glass cockpits to the RAF TriStar fleet is estimated to be in the order of £20 million. It is planned that this work will be completed by early 2011.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what conclusions her Office has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240995]

Tessa Jowell: In respect of my Private Office, the Cabinet Office published its Single Equality Scheme in February 2008, which included a report on progress in meeting its disability equality duties. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/corp/assets/publications/corporate/equality/equality_scheme.doc

In respect of the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (of which GOE is a part) published its first annual report on progress on disability equality in March 2008, available on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5082.aspx

The report describes progress on each item in DCMS's action plan and further action, for example, the establishment of a Disability Reference Group, plans to improve data collection on participation by disabled people in its sectors and work to improve the diversity of the boards of its public bodies.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he expects to have been paid out under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme by 25 December 2008; and to how many claimants he expects payment to have been made by that date. [241238]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: RPA is committed to meeting its formal targets of making 75 per cent. of payments, by value, by the end of January 2009 and 90 per cent. by value by end of March 2009.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on administering non-compliance penalties made under the Single Farm Payment Scheme since its inception. [241992]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* administrative and *(b)* legal costs have been incurred by his Department in relation to outstanding claims made under the Single Farm Payment Scheme in each year since its inception. [241993]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animals: Imports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many CITES import permits his Department has issued for long-tailed macaques originating from Cambodia in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [242943]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the last three years the UK CITES Management Authority has not issued any permits for the importation of live long tailed macaques from Cambodia.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will suspend the issue of import permits for long-tailed macaques originating from Cambodia under Article 4(2) of EC Regulation 338/97. [242944]

Huw Irranca-Davies: If the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) decides that it is appropriate to suspend trade, the decision will be implemented in the EU under Article 4.2 of Council Regulation 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

We are not aware of plans to do this and the EU's Scientific Review Group (SRG) is not separately considering suspending trade in this species as no concerns over trade have been raised. The UK has no plans to take unilateral action and if any concerns were brought to our attention we would first raise them through the SRG to ensure coordinated action across the single market.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of British livestock being affected by the bluetongue virus serotype *(a)* one and *(b)* six; and what discussions he has had with representatives of the live-stock related industry on the development of vaccines against each strain. [241480]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA monitors occurrence of major animal disease outbreaks worldwide as an early warning to assess the risk these events may pose to the UK. These risk assessments are published on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA is in discussion with existing manufacturers of BTV1 vaccine, and companies with BTV1 vaccine in development, to encourage applications to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate for provisional marketing authorisations (PMAs). If vaccine should be required, the early granting of PMAs will help supply to the market to be achieved more quickly. DEFRA has not placed orders for vaccine against serotypes 1 or 6. To our knowledge, there are no BTV-6 vaccines yet in development.

We have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This strategy was reviewed recently in light of this year's experience and to address risk from other serotypes, and was published on the DEFRA website on 1 December.

DEFRA continues to urge industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

British Waterways

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what income British Waterways generated from its property portfolio in each of the last three years. [243142]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table breaks down the income from British Waterways' non-operational property endowment and share of joint venture profit and losses.

			£ million
	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Property income	33.3	32.1	30.3
Share of joint venture profits/losses[1]	-2.4	7.3	7.7

[1] Net trading profit before tax

Dairy Products: China

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to ban the import of dairy products from China; and if he will make a statement. [241387]

Jane Kennedy: The rules on imports are decided collectively at EU level. Imports of heat-treated milk, milk-based products and raw milk intended for human consumption from China into the EU are not permitted. Safeguard measures applying to products from China that contain dairy ingredients have been agreed by the EU and the Food Standards Agency has implemented them in the UK.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240985]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA produced a new Disability Equality Scheme at the end of 2007. This was developed to provide a more focused and effective scheme than the joint equality scheme which it succeeded. This new scheme was developed with the involvement of disabled people and was approved by the Equalities and Human Rights commission. It is published on the DEFRA website and can be found on:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/diversity/des/index.htm

We have made real and tangible progress for disabled staff over the past year. This progress, against the objectives set out in the Scheme's action plan, will be reported in our Annual Progress Report on 31 December 2008.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241951]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses.

When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available: 195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid work experience or internship placements and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242115]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Placements within DEFRA are arranged locally between students and the area in which they are seeking to gain work experience. As a consequence, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Farming Links

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of *(a)* production and *(b)* distribution of the latest edition of *Farming Link* was; and how many copies were produced. [242705]

Jane Kennedy: The total cost for the November edition of *Farming Link* was £90,193 and included costs for design, editorial and online (£24,559), print (£30,634) and postage (around £35,000). The print run was 140,000 copies.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 614W, on flood control, what the *(a)* original and *(b)* most recently projected completion date of each flood protection scheme in each of the last five years is; and what the reasons are for the differences in each case; [242712]

(2) what the original completion date was for each of the Environment Agency's flood defence projects undertaken in the last five years; and what the latest expected completion date is in each case. [242713]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 2004 to 2008 the Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service was responsible for a total of 146 completed flood management projects. Of these, 83 were completed early or on time and 44 were completed within two months of the expected completion date. 19 projects were delayed by two months or more.

Information is not available for projects completed before 2004.

In most cases the projects are operational and protect houses before the final completion date of the construction works. For schemes completed within two months of the target date, the delays have been attributed to:

Poor weather conditions

High/low river flows

Planning permission

Legislative changes

Environmental permitting

A list of the schemes delayed for more than two months, including the original and expected/actual completion dates and the reasons for the delay, where available, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Project	*Completion date*	*Reason*
St. Ives and Hemingsfords	2007-08	Increased scope due to additional works required by the customer.
Alexander Docks	2006-07	An additional lock possession was required by the Ports Authority delaying the project by eight months.
Bawdsey Sea Defences	2006-07	An increased level of environmental assessment was required, this coupled with poor weather conditions delayed the project.
River Mersey FAS	2006-07	Changes in the design during the construction phase delayed the project.
Regional Flood Warning Telemetry	2006-07	High level of public interest led to delays in gaining planning permission for this project.
Maldon—Wisemans Quay	2005-06	This project started late due to contractor commitments, delaying the completion of this project.
South East Weather Radar	2005-06	This project was delayed due to the timescales involved in procuring the radar from the United States.
Lewes Mallingsbrook FAS	2005-06	The works involved considerable interface with existing services and suffered some delay from integrating project work with the utility companies carrying out diversions. The scheme was also set a very challenging target completion to respond to commitments given following the 2000 floods.
Lydney Harbour	2004-05	Delay due to the tidal working conditions and obtaining approval for the works from English Nature.
Eastern Rother—Robertsbridge FAS	2004-05	The proximity of the scheme to a large superstore delayed works as we needed to minimise the impact on the store and a large number of hypodermic needles buried in the soil delayed works while a method of dealing with them was found.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood defence projects have been postponed in each of the last three years; and what the reasons were in each case. [242794]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood risk management and provides funding for schemes to Operating Authorities (Environment Agency, local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards). The funding for flood risk has been administered by the Environment Agency since April 2006. Information on potential projects is collected from operating authorities and the Environment Agency decides which projects to promote and their timing to meet the targets set by DEFRA. Since the projects are not formally approved until funding is confirmed none will have been postponed or have had their commencement delayed.

Flood Control: Databases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will allow insurance companies and other interested parties access to the national coastal defence database. [242591]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has developed and now operates a National Flood and Coastal Defence Database (NFCDD).

Insurers are not provided with direct access to extract data from the NFCDD and requests for data are considered on a case by case basis.

NFCDD information is used to derive the Environment Agency's national flood risk assessment and other products which are made available to insurers.

Floods: Maps

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to map surface water flooding as recommended by Sir Michael Pitt in his final report. [241296]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings and will be publishing a detailed response together with a prioritised action plan shortly.

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review building regulations to ensure flood resilient repair following a flood; and if he will make a statement. [242593]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Recommendation 11 of 'The Pitt Review: Lessons learned from the 2007 floods' was that:

> "Building Regulations should be revised to ensure that all new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are flood resistant or resilient".

We will shortly be announcing the Government's response to the Pitt report.

Fly Tipping: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping offences have been successfully prosecuted under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [240894]

Jane Kennedy: Local authorities and the Environment Agency do not record prosecutions brought specifically under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, which amended the EPA.

Forestry Commission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the market value of the Forestry Commission. [242784]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have not made an estimate of the market value of the Forestry Commission. Its published Great Britain/England accounts for the year ending 31 March 2008, and which are available in the Library of the House, value its assets at £612.7 million, of which £487.9 million is attributed to the forest estate that the Commission manages.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of the Genetically-Modified Organisms Panel of the European Food Safety Agency to advise on the potential risks to health and the environment of genetically-modified organisms; if he will support proposals for reform of the panel; and if he will make a statement. [242648]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Earlier this month the EU Environmental Council adopted a set of written conclusions on GM issues. Among other things, these set out an agreed view on the operation of the risk assessment process for genetically-modified organisms, including in respect of the role played by European Food Safety Agency in providing expert advice. The UK supported the adoption of the conclusions, the full text of which is available at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/envir/104509.pdf.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the provisions of the relevant concordat between the competent authorities in Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland when *(a)* negotiating and *(b)* voting in the Council of Ministers on matters of assessments and authorisations for genetically-modified organisms in Europe; and if he will make a statement. [243550]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The principles set down in the concordat continue to provide a clear framework for liaison between the four UK competent authorities on the matters covered by the agreement, including the assessment and authorisation of GMOs under EU Directive 2001/18.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many inspections of genetically modified organism (GMO) test sites have been carried out by the GM Inspectorate relating to Part B consents in respect of experimental releases of GMOs under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 and the GMO (Deliberate Release) (England) Regulations 2002 in England since January 2000; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [241623]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In total 718 inspections of GM release sites have taken place since January 2000.

The Central Science Laboratory's GM inspectorate has made 341 growing season inspections since it assumed its responsibilities in June 2000. Each part B trial site is inspected at least once when the crop is in the ground, but additional inspections may be undertaken at sowing or at harvest, or where an incident has occurred at the release site. The reports can be found on the internet at:

http://www.gm-inspectorate.gov.uk/deliberateRelease/exptreleases.cfm

In addition the GM inspectorate has made 337 inspection visits following completion of trials. I have arranged for copies of the reports from these visits to be placed in the Library .

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was responsible for all inspections prior to 1 June 2000 and since then has retained responsibility for inspections of GM clinical trial applications. I have also arranged for copies of HSE's 40 inspection reports to be placed in the Library.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites growing genetically modified organisms grant Part C authorisation for commercial cultivation under Directive 90/220 or 2001/18 have been sown since January 2000; and how many of these sites have been vandalised. [241625]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There has been no commercial cultivation of GM crops in England, but maize variety T25, which has a Part C consent, was one of the crops grown in the farm-scale evaluation (FSE) research trials. There were 68 plantings of T25 as part of the FSEs after January 2000, of which 23 were vandalised.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many post-release monitoring reports of Part B consents in respect of the experimental releases of genetically modified organisms authorised under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 and the GMO (Deliberate Release) (England) Regulations 2002 his Department has received since January 2000; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each report received. [241762]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has received 205 post-release monitoring reports from consent holders since January 2000. These are available for inspection on the GMO public register held in DEFRA's library. I have arranged for copies of them to be placed in the Library of the House.

Glass: Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the cost of introducing a deposit return scheme for glass bottles. [242798]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given 15 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 321W.

International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tuna

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the UK voted for or against the decision made at the recent meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna to set a quota of 22,000 tonnes of bluefin tuna in 2009; and what the Government's position is on a quota for blue fin tuna catch. [243173]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The decision to set a total allowable catch (TAC) of 22,000 tonnes for the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic blue fin tuna fishery in 2009 was agreed by consensus at the meeting and therefore not subject to a vote.

While the UK would have ideally preferred the ICCAT to adopt a smaller TAC for blue fin tuna, the controls that have now been put in place for this fishery, coupled with the plan for contracting parties to demonstrate that they can comply with the plan or have their quotas suspended, mean that the fishery should now be effectively managed in order to prevent the over-fishing that has occurred in previous years.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the operational effectiveness of the proposed Marine Management Organisation in carrying out its functions as a non-departmental public body and *(b)* the operational effectiveness of the Marine and Fisheries Agency in performing those functions. [242391]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ensure that it is fit for purpose the Government intends the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to have the degree of independence from any one Minister or Department that the Marine Fisheries Agency, as an executive agency of DEFRA, currently lacks.

This independence from a single Department of Government is key as the MMO will deliver functions on behalf of Government as a whole—not just for DEFRA. There is also a strong desire across Government for stakeholders to be confident that the MMO is neutral.

It is largely for these reasons that the Government have decided that the MMO should be a non-departmental public body.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to re-allocate funds from existing budgets to fund the location outside London of the proposed Marine Management Organisation. [242404]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has been aware of the potential funding required for a relocation for some time. My decision on location of the Marine Management Organisation will be taken into account when 2009-10 budget allocations within DEFRA are agreed in the new year.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the 40 new posts to be created at the proposed Marine Management Organisation will be in *(a)* marine planning, *(b)* corporate services and *(c)* other areas. [242405]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Management Organisation will create approximately 43 new posts. 19 will be in marine planning, four will be in corporate services and 20 will be in other areas.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many marine plans are to be drafted for the proposed Marine Management Organisation; and what deadline has been set for such plans to be produced. [242406]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are aiming to put in place a significant number of marine plans over a 20 year period. We have not set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill either the number of plans or the deadline for their production because this is a new system which needs to evolve.

The figures in the impact assessment published alongside the Bill are based on 10 plans, although the eventual number of plans, and their size will depend on local ecological and regional characteristics and needs in the areas where planning is most needed. We envisage that plans will be created through a phased approach, with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) prioritising resources to the areas where it is determined that early planning will be of most benefit.

We aim to start developing the first plans as soon as the MMO is established. We will be examining these issues during the course of the next year and will consult with stakeholders as part of developing our approach.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff he estimates will be working on marine planning in the proposed Marine Management Organisation's first year of operation. [242407]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Of the 43 new posts the Marine Management Organisation will create, 19 will be in marine planning.

Our impact assessment suggests that we may need teams of six to co-ordinate each plan, supported by resources from the wider organisation to address requirements such as science, data management and analysis, geospatial systems, legal advice, communications and stakeholder engagement.

Therefore depending on how many plans the MMO works on at any given time it would be likely to require dedicated staff with further input from a range of specialists. The MMO will not be working alone but will be seeking to involve marine and planning expertise from the stakeholder community. Ultimately the numbers engaged in the planning process will be determined by the priority allocated to planning and the availability of resources, in essence the needs of the business.

Pesticides: Health Hazards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will publish *(a)* the papers from the Study of Health in Agricultural Work by Dr. Andrew Povey et al., of the University of Manchester, *(b)* the Survey of Health and Pesticide Exposure by Dr. Tony Fletcher of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and *(c)* the case-control study of neuropsychological and psychiatric functioning in sheep farmers exposed to OP pesticide by Dr. Sarah Mackenzie Ross of University College, London, commissioned by his Department. [243548]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The reports from Dr. Povey and Dr. Mackenzie Ross will be published when the current peer review has been completed.

The consolidated epidemiological and clinical reports from Dr. Fletcher's study have been passed to the Medical and Scientific Panel of the Veterinary Products Committee for their independent view of the findings. Once the Medical and Scientific Panel's views are received the consolidated report will be published.

The epidemiological report from Dr. Fletcher's study was published on the DEFRA website in June 2005 and can be found at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=VM0299_260_TRP.doc.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the funding available to collect and analyse disease surveillance data relating to cross-border pet movement. [241476]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA undertakes extensive work in relation to rabies and other important diseases that may be carried by pet animals that arrive in the United Kingdom via both PETS (the Pet Travel Scheme) and those going into quarantine. Also, DEFRA regularly reviews the targeting of the resources it has available to carry out disease surveillance. Reviews are carried out in accordance with the reasons for Government intervention as set out in the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. Consideration of re-allocation of surveillance resource between different animal species and diseases, to permit increased funding of surveillance in relation to cross-border pet movement, is included in this process.

Plastics: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans his Department has to fund new mixed plastics recycling plants; and if he will make a statement; [241868]

(2) what plans his Department has to fund new mixed plastics recycling plants; and if he will make a statement. [242549]

Jane Kennedy: There are no current plans for new capital investment in mixed plastic recycling infrastructure, but this position is being reviewed in light of the current global market conditions.

JUSTICE

Chelmsford Prison

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners at Chelmsford Prison share a room with *(a)* one and *(b)* two other prisoners; [244183]

(2) what the designated maximum number of prisoners is who can be housed in Chelmsford Prison; [244184]

(3) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* young offenders there are in Chelmsford Prison. [244185]

Mr. Hanson: On 12 December, the operational capacity of Chelmsford prison was 695. The number of adults and young offenders held in the prison overnight was 482 and 203 respectively. 276 prisoners shared a cell with another person. No prisoners were held three to a cell.

Community Orders: Per Capita Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* daily, *(b)* weekly, *(c)* monthly and *(d)* annual cost of supervising an offender on a community sentence was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [243287]

Mr. Hanson: Probation Services meets the cost of delivering Community Sentences through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 established the new Community Order as a single community sentence with a number of elements in respect of offences committed after 4 April 2005.

Probation Boards and trusts spent £614 million in 2007-08 supervising around 244,000 offenders. It is not currently possible to separate the cost of supervising offenders on community sentence as probation caseloads also include significant numbers of offenders that have been released from a custodial sentence or released temporarily into the community.

Work is in hand in the National Offender Management Service to ensure that all offender services delivered in custody and in the community are properly specified and costed so that commissioners can ensure that resources are targeted effectively to protect the public and reduce re-offending.

County Courts: Kent

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the rate of throughput of civil cases at county courts in Kent. [242569]

Bridget Prentice: In terms of key performance indicator 6, which deals with the proportion of small claims (claims up to £5,000) that are dealt with other than by a hearing (settlement), Kent has increased from 52.4 per cent. at the end of 2007-08, to 55.1 per cent. for the first six months of this year. Increased administrative support is being given to the Kent small claims mediator to improve the throughput of civil cases where the parties believe that mediation outside the courtroom may lead to settlement.

For key performance indicator 7, which measures the proportion of defended small claims that are completed (from issue to final hearing) within 30 weeks, there has been a decline in throughput of civil small claims cases in Kent in 2008-09 based on figures to the end of September 2008. Her Majesty's Courts Service, Kent has taken the following steps to improve the performance. On small claims cases, deputy district judge sittings have increased by an additional 66 days to improve performance. Greater use is being made of listing a block of cases before two or more district judges sitting on the same day at the same location, thus utilising judicial time more effectively. A pilot exercise is being undertaken whereby the Kent small claims mediator attends that same court to offer on-the-spot mediation to parties awaiting hearing who wish to take advantage of this free mediation service. Closer scrutiny of the reasons for cases not meeting target will be carried out by court managers from December 2008.

In line with the key performance indicator to increase the amount of civil work initiated online, Kent has made progress and in October 2008, 67 per cent. of customers issued possession claims online as compared with 41.3 per cent. a year ago. Further work is planned to increase online take up.

In relation to (the supporting indicator, for) large multi-track cases (over £15,000), the system by which these cases are heard at each location at Kent within the same fortnight is being extended to three fortnights a year, rather than two, to improve performance against target. A review of all multi-track cases at Canterbury county court was recently carried out by the designated civil judge to ensure that cases were being dealt with in a timely manner and not incurring avoidable delay.

Supporting management information is provided in relation to the proportion of administrative process completed within five days. Kent's performance is slightly below the South East region's figure of 92.9 per cent., at 91.2 per cent. for the first six months of this year. During the first part of the year in Kent, a number of county court manager roles were covered on a temporary basis at Canterbury (seven months), Medway (ongoing temporary promotion), and Tunbridge Wells (temporary promotion, four months), as well as at Maidstone county court. The majority of court manager vacancies are now filled and with the training of new staff that has taken place, improvement in the management of administrative process at these sites is anticipated.

Kent has been included, as part of wider regional reviews including the Civil Listing Review, District Judge Complementing Review and Circuit Judge Complementing Review. These reviews have made recommendations on listing practices and the operation of concurrent jurisdiction for circuit and district judges and the requirement to hear civil work at the most appropriate level. These recommendations are now being considered by the area director and the designated civil judge with a view to realigning judicial resource where appropriate to bring improvement in performance across all areas of civil work.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242929]

Mr. Wills: In the ex-DCA, details of the number of staff investigated for losing and deliberately disclosing data and confidential information were not held centrally in a format that would enable us to answer this part of the question. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information regarding suspensions and the outcome of disciplinary proceedings is held centrally and these records indicate that no members of staff have been suspended or dismissed since 9 May 2007 for these offences.

In the National Offender Management Service, details of the number of staff investigated or suspended for losing and deliberately disclosing data and confidential information are not held centrally in a format that would enable us to answer this part of the question. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information regarding the outcome of disciplinary proceedings is held centrally and these records indicate that no members of staff have been dismissed since 9 May 2007 for these offences.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract since the inception of his Department. [242458]

Maria Eagle: There have been no nugatory costs to the Department and its agencies, since its inception, relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to award of the contract.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243037]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not convened any citizens' juries or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making. However we recognise the important contribution that the public can make in this area and carry out a wide range of activities which allow Ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders in developing policy.

Deportation: Ukraine

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners were returned to Ukraine under prisoner transfer agreements in the last year for which figures are available; [244460]

(2) how many prisoners were removed from England and Wales under prisoner transfer agreements in the last year for which figures are available; [244463]

(3) how many prisoners were returned to *(a)* the Netherlands and *(b)* the Netherlands Antilles under prisoner transfer agreements in the last year for which figures are available. [244464]

Mr. Hanson: In the calendar year 2007, 111 prisoners were transferred from England and Wales to other countries under relevant international prisoner transfer arrangements. Of these, 75 prisoners were transferred to the Netherlands and five prisoners were transferred to the Netherlands Antilles. No prisoners were transferred to the Ukraine.

Juries

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to establish parallel juries for the purposes of research into how juries reach their verdicts. [243198]

Maria Eagle: We have no plans to establish parallel juries for the purposes of research into how juries reach their verdicts.

Legal Aid Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been provided for legal aid in each of the last five years; and how many individuals received legal aid in each such year. [242416]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested for each of the last five years is set out in the following table, taken from the Legal Services Commission's annual reports. The figures exclude release of provision on dormant cases and charges for bad debt. The LSC's management information system records acts of assistance rather than the number of individuals assisted. Some individuals may have received more than one act of assistance during the year and some acts of assistance may help more than one person.

	Resource expenditure (£ million)	*Acts of assistance (Thousand)*
2003-04	1,914	2,633
2004-05	1,769	2,435
2005-06	2,000	2,607
2006-07	1,983	2,659
2007-08	1,945	2,503

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of providing legal aid was in relation to a *(a)* civil and *(b)* housing repossession case in the latest period for which figures are available. [242417]

Bridget Prentice: The average cost of civil representation cases before income[1] was £5,520 in 2007-08. The average cost of Legal Help by solicitors in 2007-08 was £265.The figures relate to cases that were closed in the year and include VAT.

The average cost of civil representation housing possession cases before income[1] was £2,200 in 2007-08. This excludes cases that have been settled.

The average cost of Legal Help in housing possession cases was £200 in 2007-08. The figures relate to cases that were closed in the year and include VAT.

[1] The figure shows the total amount that the LSC has paid for the case. The figure does not cover any of the money that the LSC will receive back as income, for example from costs and contributions.

National Offender Management Service Board

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will appoint a *(a)* director of mental health, *(b)* director of women's prisons, *(c)* director of education and *(d)* director of programmes to the National Offender Management Service Board. [243587]

Mr. Hanson: Offenders' mental health, education and programme needs and delivery, as well as women's prisons issues are already represented at director level on the National Offender Management Service Agency Board.

National Offender Management Service: Per Capita Costs

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the National Offender Management Service spent per meal on inmates in HM Prisons in the latest year for which figures are available. [244136]

Mr. Hanson: For 2007-08, the last full financial year for which figures are available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner in England and Wales was £2.12.

No discrete cost data are held centrally for each meal but we estimate that for breakfast, lunch and dinner the approximate breakdown of the daily food cost is 20 per cent., 40 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively. This calculates as follows:

	£
Breakfast	0.42
Lunch	0.85
Evening Meal	0.85

This estimate will vary between establishments and actual costs will be dependant on local regimes.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of administering offending behaviour programmes was *(a)* in prison and *(b)* on probation in each of the last five years, broken down by type of programme. [243288]

Mr. Hanson: Funding for the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody is built into prison baselines and it is not possible accurately to disaggregate the cost of this work. The National Offender Management Service is currently undertaking a specifications, benchmarking and costings exercise which will provide accurate costings of the interventions delivered.

The additional funding allocated for accredited drug rehabilitation programmes is given in the following table:

Drug rehabilitation programmes

	£ million
2004-05	13.8
2005-06	19.4
2006-07	19.4
2007-08	19.4
2008-09	19.4

Probation Boards fund the cost of providing programmes for offenders in the community through their main grant. Data are available only on the allocation of funds to deliver programmes to offenders under probation supervision which is set out in the following table:

	£ million
2005-06	77
2006-07	85
2007-08	86.5

There is no information relating to expenditure for years leading up to 2005.

Prison Service: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what change to manager posts is proposed under the Prison Service's Workforce Modernisation proposals; and how many *(a)* governor grade and *(b)* operational manager posts are to be affected. [242442]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the drive to deliver efficiency savings and improve the way in which the agency delivers its business, the Workforce Modernisation Programme proposes to streamline the number of management layers in establishments and reduce the number of managers by 1,100 over a period of five years. This will be achieved by setting a management benchmark at area level. There will be no need to impose compulsory redundancies to achieve this benchmark.

Workforce modernisation will also develop the capability of managers by clarifying their role, responsibilities, development opportunities and career progression arrangements. This modernisation will be implemented alongside new pay and grading arrangements to ensure that staff are paid fairly for the work that they do.

Prison Service: Industrial Relations

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff grievances were lodged at each prison establishment in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [244011]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through contact with each of the 138 prisons across the service.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has undertaken of the potential effect on the safety and stability of prisons of proposed changes in governor grade and operational manager posts in the Prison Service under the workforce modernisation proposals. [242443]

Mr. Hanson: Extensive engagement with staff, including governors and area managers, has led to the development of a set of proposals which the NOMS Board—including the chief operating officer—are satisfied will deliver more efficient ways of working while maintaining the current levels of safety and stability in establishments.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many working days were lost due to staff sickness in the Prison Service in the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the consequential cost to the Prison Service in each of those years. [242066]

Mr. Hanson: The following table contains information on the total number of working days lost to the public sector Prison Service through sickness absence in each year since 2003-04. The table also shows the average number of working days lost per employee of the public sector Prison Service during the same period. An estimate has been made of the overall cost of absence (at 2007 prices) for the public sector.

Sickness absence accounted for 5.3 per cent. of all available working days in the public sector Prison Service in 2007-08. 41 per cent. of Prison Service staff had no sickness absence in the 12 months to June 2008. Sickness absence rates have fallen by 12 per cent. since 2003-04 and by 20 per cent. since 2002. The reduction in absence rates since 2003-04 has saved an estimated £10.8 million.

Information has not been provided for the privately contracted prisons. As private companies, the contractors bear the costs of their staff sickness. The costs do not fall on public funds.

Total working days lost and cost of sickness absence in the public sector Prison Service, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Working days lost	Average working days lost	Estimated cost[1] (£ million)
2003-04	628,623	13.31	83.4
2004-05	616,367	12.68	81.7
2005-06	589,211	12.17	78.1
2006-07	573,071	11.64	76.0
2007-08	590,936	11.70	78.4

[1] The cost of a day is estimated as £132.62. This does not include other costs associated with sickness absence.

Prisoners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners on average were serving sentences of *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* between three and six months and *(c)* between six and 12 months in each of the last five years. [243281]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information for all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June each year can be found in the following table:

	Total	Less than or equal to 3 months	Greater than 3 and less than or equal to 6 months	Greater than 6 months and less than 12 months	Greater than or equal to 12 months
2004	60,924	1,794	3,939	2,306	52,886
2005	62,179	1,866	4,127	2,225	53,961
2006	63,404	1,802	4,136	2,525	54,942
2007	65,533	1,547	3,597	2,462	57,928
2008	68,124	1,829	4,027	2,866	59,403

These figures are a reworking of figures which are available at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentenced foreign prisoners were released from prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [244479]

Mr. Hanson: During 2007, the latest year for which the requested information is available, there were some 7,400 foreign national prisoners released from prison establishments in England and Wales. This includes those who were subsequently deported. Over 4,200 were deported or removed in 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing so the figure given has been rounded.

Prisoners: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders in the North East his Department has assisted into employment upon release from prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [242382]

Mr. Hanson: The number and proportion of prisoners who were released from prisons in the North East and assisted into employment for 2007-08 is shown in the table. The table also includes the number and proportion of prisoners released from prisons in the North East with an education or training outcome for the same period.

The percentage of prisoners discharged with an employment, education or training status, is given as a proportion of the number of prisoners discharged, excluding temporary releases and prisoners who are deported on release.

North east area : 2007-08

	Number	Percentage
Number of prisoners discharged with an employment outcome	920	—
Proportion of prisoners discharged with employment outcome	—	16.0
Number of prisoners discharged with an education or training outcome	531	—
Proportion of prisoners discharged with education or training outcome	—	9.2

Prisoners: Unemployment

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid as unemployment pay to prisoners in each prison in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [244040]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners are eligible for unemployment pay if they are willing to work, but the establishment cannot find suitable employment or the prisoner is unable to work. All prisoners who participate in purposeful activity must be paid. Those who refuse must not receive any pay.

The Prison Service accounting system does not capture expenditure on prisoners' pay to level of detail required to answer the question fully. The Prison Service sets a minimum unemployed rate of £2.50 a week. However, Governors have devolved authority to set rates of pay for their establishment and these will reflect the particular regime activities. The total amount paid to prisoners as earnings in each of the last three years is as follows:

	£
2007-08	32,617,477
2006-07	31,287,813
2005-06	29,614,080

The Service is unable to sub-divide these totals any further without a full survey of all 138 public sector prisons which could be carried out only at a disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Construction

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when his Department expects to complete its prison capacity building programme; and what estimate he has made of the running cost of the capacity added by the programme in each of the next 10 years; [243278]

(2) how many additional prison places his Department plans to provide in each of the next 10 years; and whether those figures include places in the proposed three Titan prisons; [243290]

(3) what the expected *(a)* total and *(b)* annual capital costs of his Department's plan for additional prison capacity are over the period of the plans. [243516]

(4) what estimate he has made of the running costs of the capacity added by his Department's prison capacity building programme in each of the next 10 years. [243276]

Mr. Hanson: The prison capacity programme is expected to be complete by 2014. Once completed, the estimated annual running cost of new capacity is around £490 million.

The following table shows the number of places, including those in prison clusters, to be delivered in each year of the programme to 2014. The number of places delivered per year may be subject to change due to a number of factors, for example the planning process and environmental issues. Prison clusters will provide up to 7,500 prison places (2,500 in each complex); 2,500 places will be additional capacity and 5,000 places will replace some of the most inefficient places in the prison estate.

	Number
2008	2,687
2009	2,378
2010	3,377
2011	2,015
2012	3,120
2013	0
2014	5,000

No decisions have been made on the provision of further capacity after the prison capacity programme is complete.

The following table shows the current estimated capital cost of the capacity programme in each financial year to 2012. This does not include capital costs for the three prison clusters, but does include an allowance for the purchase of land for the first prison cluster.

	Capital
	Current forecast (£ million)
2006-07	190.88
2007-08	373.39
2008-09	413.25
2009-10	494.44
2010-11	327.02
2011-12	295.3
Total	2,094.28

Prisons: Population

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places are expected to be available in each year between 2007-08 and 2014-15. [242732]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of prison places delivered during 2007-08 and those we anticipate being delivered in each financial year to 2014-15, including the three prison clusters. The number of places delivered per year may be subject to change due to a number of factors, for example the planning process and environmental issues.

	Number
2007-08	2,295
2008-09	2,070
2009-10	2,457
2010-11	2,674
2011-12	2,700
2012-13	2,500
2013-14	0
2014-15	5,000

Reoffenders

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average adult re-offending rate was for male prisoners two years after release in the latest period for which figures are available; [243097]

(2) what the average adult re-offending rate was for female prisoners two years after release in the latest period for which figures are available. [243098]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 shows the one year reoffending rates for offenders leaving custody in the first quarter of the years 2000 to 2006, by gender (data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data for community sentences). The table shows the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

Table 1: One year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody by gender, 2000-2006

			Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (one year)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders (one year)*
Male	2000	Q1	14,543	51.6	244.1
	2002	Q1	14,385	55.0	283.8
	2003	Q1	13,202	53.9	276.8
	2004	Q1	14,359	51.8	249.9
	2005	Q1	13,353	49.1	227.0
	2006	Q1	13,178	46.6	207.5
Female	2000	Q1	1,184	48.0	262.5
	2002	Q1	1,193	55.8	340.9
	2003	Q1	1,156	54.1	305.1
	2004	Q1	1,402	53.7	285.2
	2005	Q1	1,242	49.1	244.8
	2006	Q1	1,202	45.0	218.6

Two year reoffending rates by gender are available for the 2000 to 2005 cohorts. For these cohorts, the only figures available are the proportion of offenders who committed a further offence within two years. These figures are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Two year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody by gender, 2000-2005

			Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (two year)*
Male	2000	Q1	15,268	65.4
	2002	Q1	14,665	67.7
	2003	Q1	14,095	66.1
	2004	Q1	14,972	64.7
	2005	Q1	13,501	62.4
Female	2000	Q1	1,259	58.2

Table 2: Two year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody by gender, 2000-2005

			Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders offending (two year)*
	2002	Q1	1,222	64.6
	2003	Q1	1,190	63.4
	2004	Q1	1,408	64.3
	2005	Q1	1,203	59.4

It should be noted that comparisons between the one and two year rates should be interpreted with caution. This is due to a slight improvement in the method used to count offenders released from custody (or starting court orders under probation supervision) when we moved to measuring reoffending over one year rather than two.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Further information on the two year rates can be found in:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

Reoffenders: Homicide

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions convicted murderers detained in *(a)* secure mental health accommodation and *(b)* prisons have committed murders after their release in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242690]

Mr. Hanson: The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence" contains data on the number of offenders previously convicted of homicide who have been convicted of a further homicide after release or termination of sentence. The latest published version is for 2006-07. This is available at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf

The 2007-08 bulletin will be published in January 2009.

	Number of offenders previously convicted of homicide (murder and manslaughter) who have been convicted of a further homicide after release or termination of sentence
2002-03	1
2003-04	1
2004-05	3
2005-06	1
2006-07	1

Of all of the cases listed in the bulletin, one case recorded in 2004-05 involved a convicted murderer released from secure mental health accommodation. In three of the cases in the bulletin, the original index offence was manslaughter rather than murder.

Repossession Orders: Advisory Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of individuals who have accessed housing possession court duty schemes who had received no prior legal advice in the latest period for which figures are available. [242446]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission does not record whether individuals accessing the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme have received prior legal advice. However, it would not expect the majority of individuals to have done so given the emergency nature of the advice.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals have gained access to housing possession court duty schemes in each month since they were introduced. [242613]

Bridget Prentice: Between 2001 and 2005 the Legal Services Commission funded 13 pilot duty schemes as part of their research into alternative methods of delivery of legal services. These pilots assisted approximately 5,000 people per year. A monthly breakdown for this period could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Since April 2005, over 87,000 acts of assistance have been given by LSC funded Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes. The following table provides a monthly breakdown.

Month	*Acts of assistance*	*Annual total*
April 2005	563	—
May 2005	553	—
June2005	622	—
July 2005	544	—
August 2005	709	—
September 2005	845	—
October 2005	995	—
November 2005	1,240	—
December 2005	1,021	—
January 2006	1,601	—
February 2006	1,736	—
March 2006	1,602	12,030
April 2006	2,031	—
May 2006	2,458	—
June 2006	2,349	—
July 2006	2,319	—
August 2006	2,319	—
September 2006	2,477	—
October 2006	2,694	—
November 2006	2,805	—
December 2006	1,975	—
January 2007	2,413	—
February 2007	2,072	—
March 2007	1,650	27,560
April 2007	2,315	—
May 2007	2,354	—
June 2007	2,306	—
July 2007	2,596	—
August 2007	2,536	—
September 2007	2,728	—
October 2007	2,571	—
November 2007	2,698	—
December 2007	2,121	—
January 2008	2,946	—
February 2008	2,788	—
March 2008	2,513	30,470
April 2008	3,103	—
May 2008	2,625	—
June 2008	2,797	—

Month	*Acts of assistance*	*Annual total*
July 2008	3,106	—
August 2008	2,644	—
September 2008	3,007	17,280

Tribunals: Witnesses

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received from expert witnesses before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal who consider that their professional reputation has been damaged as a consequence of tribunal judgments. [243472]

Bridget Prentice: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal recently received a complaint from an expert witness. This was investigated and it was found that the complaint was as a result of an administrative error, and not a tribunal judgment. The tribunal service have apologised for its error.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister what conclusions his Office has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240971]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Tom Watson) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 173-74W.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Office and *(b)* computers in (i) his private office, (ii) the offices of its communications officials and (iii) the offices of his special advisers. [241959]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on security matters.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how many special advisers were employed in 10 Downing Street at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what the expenditure on special advisers in 10 Downing Street was in 2007-08. [243565]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. Updated information will be published in the usual way.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what was the cost of entertainment and hospitality in Downing Street and Chequers in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [241585]

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what records his Office maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240458]

The Prime Minister: Details of the cost of entertainment and hospitality in Downing Street and Chequers are published annually.

For information for 2007-08 I refer the hon. Members to the written statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 108-10WS. For information for 2006-07 I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1308W, on departmental public expenditure, whether the figure given for the running cost of his Office in 2007-08 includes the cost of *(a)* the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; and if he will make a statement. [241779]

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1308W, on departmental public expenditure, what the figure for 2006-07 was. [241783]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1098-99W.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242612]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 551W.

Equitable Life

Jo Swinson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his statement on 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 38, for what reason the expected date of the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on Equitable Life is not until January 2009. [244473]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House of Commons to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) during the Business Statement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 677.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters concerning nuclear disarmament initiatives were discussed at his meeting with President Sarkozy of France on 8 December 2008. [243815]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issue with President Sarkozy. I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with President Barroso and President Sarkozy on 8 December. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17733

A copy of this page has been placed in the Library of the House.

Security Commission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many investigations the Security Commission has undertaken into security breaches since 1997. [241586]

The Prime Minister: Since 1997 the Security Commission has undertaken two investigations. Copies of their findings were published by way of Command Paper—Cm 4578 and Cm 6177. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

World Economy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 662W, on the world economy, which ministers and officials accompanied him to Washington for the G20 economic summit on 15 November 2008; and if he will put on his Office's website all papers submitted to the summit. [241807]

The Prime Minister: I was accompanied to the G20 in Washington by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business (Baroness Vadera).

The Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy is available on the White House website:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/11/20081115-1.html

A copy of this webpage has been place in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals on the size and number of allotments provided by local authorities. [243583]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have any current plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the plot size and number of allotments provided by local authorities.

The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide sufficient allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

Furthermore "Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation, 2002" encourages local authorities to ensure that they provide an adequate number of allotments for their community and ascertain what is sufficient for their local area. The accompanying guidance to PPG 17 advises local authorities on setting local standards.

Business Improvement Districts

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects of work are being undertaken in each of the Business Improvement Districts that have been established to date in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* London. [242571]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects are being undertaken in each of the business improvement districts established to date. [243984]

John Healey: The Department does not collate information on all projects of work that are being undertaken in each of the established Business Improvement Districts.

The Government maintain a register, which gives brief details of prospective BIDs that are intending to go to ballot and whether these have been successful.

The register can be accessed at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busrats/bidsoct08.pdf

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243760]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1322W and the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W.

Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to assess whether measures implemented as part of the Prevent strand of Project Contest *(a)* are effective and *(b)* deliver value for money. [240577]

Mr. Khan: My Department recently published an assessment of the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Pathfinder 2007-08 year which describes the contribution that PVE Pathfinder projects made to Prevent objectives. It also contained a review of local evaluations of pathfinder work.

Since Preventing Violent Extremism funding was issued to local authorities in March 2008, local authorities have been embedding the Prevent agenda in their performance management. All local authorities have to report on progress on the National Indicator (NI) 35 ("Building Resilience to Violent Extremism") and in June 2008, 19 local authorities selected NI 35 as a priority indicator as part of their local area agreements. NI 35 is replicated in the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) performance framework as a key diagnostic indicator. The introduction of the comprehensive area assessment in April 2009 will further ensure effective and efficient performance by local authorities and other local partners on Prevent.

The Audit Commission and Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) recent "Learning and Development Exercise" looked at what works and what barriers there are to the effective local delivery of Prevent. Work is under way to ensure that the findings of the review inform the approach of both central Government and local partners in delivering Prevent. HMIC are also carrying out an inspection of Prevent performance in all 43 police forces in England and Wales.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much money will be spent as part of the Prevent strand of Project Contest on targeting the risk of extremism amongst *(a)* individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system and *(b)* individuals who are in prison in 2008-09; [240578]

(2) how much has been spent as part of the Prevent strand of Project Contest on targeting the risk of extremism amongst *(a)* individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system and *(b)* individuals who are in prison in each year since 2003. [240579]

Mr. Khan: The Home Office has funded a number of projects. The National Offender Management Service is taking forward a multi-disciplinary programme of work to manage the risks of violent extremist offenders which contributes to both PREVENT and PURSUE objectives and spans work with offenders in prison establishments and on licence in the community. Central funding for this programme is provided through the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) Prevent budget. Since 2005, OSCT has provided HM Prison Service (HMPS) with the following funding: 2005-06—£65,463, 2006-07—£140,535 and 2007-08—£822,542. £2.7 million has been allocated in 2008-09.

£2.6 million OSCT funding has been allocated to the Youth Justice Board in this financial year to a two-year programme of work under the work stream of the Prevent Strategy aimed at 'supporting vulnerable individuals'. A total of 40 Youth Offending Team/Youth Secure Estate projects have been funded so far with a further 10 project bids expected to be submitted for a one-year funding round in 2009-10. Projects cover a wide range of interventions and are aimed at vulnerable young people who have been involved in or who may be at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much her Department forecasts will be spent on the Prevent strand of Project Contest in 2008-09; [240580]

(2) how much has been spent on implementing the Prevent strand of Project Contest since 2003. [240581]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 483-84W, concerning the costs of the Preventing Violent Extremism (PREVENT) programme in CLG since its inception. My Department has budgeted to spend £8.5 million on PREVENT-related projects in the financial year 2008-09.

In addition, other Government Departments will be supporting projects, principally the Home Office which has spent £15.07 million between April 2007 and the end of November 2008. Furthermore other Departments and the police are providing funding for projects and activities contributing to Prevent. We are also making a provision of £12 million to local authorities through Area Based Grant, although as this will be un-ringfenced grant, it will be for the relevant local authority to decide how it is spent.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge), of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 298-99W, on departmental air travel, if she will place in the Library the finalised figures for 2007-08. [241533]

Mr. Khan: A copy of Communities and Local Government's 2007-08 air mileage data used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund will be placed in the Library and is as follows:

Category	*Distance (km)*
Domestic air travel	158,774
Short-haul air travel	478,261
Long-haul air travel	315,288
Total	952,323

Note:
These data do not include travel undertaken by the Department's Executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies or the regional Government offices.

All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 'Civil Service Management Code'.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members of staff in her Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242017]

Mr. Khan: One member of staff only has received a gift of £100 or higher in the course of their duties over the past three years. The gift of a digital camera was kept for departmental use within our Communications Directorate. The gift was received from a party of Japanese volunteer and career fire fighters for attending an Emergency Planning Authority training centre at Southwark on 23 October 2006.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many special advisers were employed in her Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what her Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243578]

Mr. Khan: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in her Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244397]

Mr. Khan: The policy in the Department is for all employees whether they are permanent or temporary contracts to be treated the same in terms of pay. However as each grade has an associated pay range with minimum and maximum pay points, all employees in the same grade, whatever their contractual status, will not necessarily be paid at the same hourly rate.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the agencies for which her Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [243494]

Mr. Khan: This information is not available.

The Department for Communities and Local Government measured and reported the proportion of invoices paid within the 30-day target for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. Reported performance for these years was 95.37 per cent. and 92.94 per cent. respectively. The introduction of a 10-day target took effect from the current financial year.

Work is now in hand to ensure that we can measure payment performance against a 10-day target and to separately identify payment times to small and medium enterprises.

Payment performance in the Department's agencies has generally met the target of paying 98 per cent. of invoices within 30 days of the invoice date. The Department is currently liaising with its agencies on the best way forward with the new target and figures are not currently available.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she last used a train in the course of her official duties. [242597]

Mr. Khan: Thursday 4 December 2008.

Empty Property

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there were in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [242872]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of long-term empty homes (i.e. domestic properties) reported by each billing authority since 2004 on annual CTB1 and CTB1S forms submitted to Communities and Local Government. Reliable estimates before 2004 are not available.

Information about the number of empty non-domestic properties is not available centrally.

Energy Performance Certificates

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to *(a)* collect, *(b)* monitor and *(c)* publish information gathered from energy performance certificates. [241393]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information used to produce energy performance certificates is collected and lodged on a central register, and monitored by the accreditation schemes responsible for accrediting the energy assessors, who carry out the energy assessments. In accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, Regulation 37, the keeper of the register may disclose any document or data to an officer of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government provided that no particular property is identifiable from the document disclosed.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents of spillage and leakage other than those associated with road traffic accidents were attended by fire and rescue services in each year since 1994. [244060]

Mr. Khan: The number of spills and leaks incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service other than those associated with road traffic accidents, in England, is set out as follows:

	Number of incidents
1994-95	11,261
1995-96	13,228
1996-97	12,865
1997-98	13,153
1998-99	12,864
1999-2000	12,160
2000-01	13,529
2001-02	14,140
2002-03	13,097
2003-04	11,189
2004-05	9,488
2005-06	9,188
2006-07	8,863
2007-08	7,933

Fire Services: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken following the Coroner's recommendation in his verdict on the death of Adam Meere. [243035]

Mr. Khan: The Coroner's recommendations were directed to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. However, an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive following the death of Adam Meere is still ongoing. In line with current procedures, the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser will consider any issues of national significance arising from the investigation.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had with representatives of fire and rescue services affected by the current floors and ceilings revenue finding formula; and if she will make a statement. [242779]

Mr. Khan: Meetings were held with local authorities between 6 December 2007 and 8 January 2008, including six fire and rescue authorities, as part of the consultation period on the 2008-09 local government finance settlement. In addition, a meeting was held with one fire and rescue authority to discuss the settlement in March 2008.

We are currently consulting on the 2009-10 settlement and we welcome written representations from fire and rescue authorities by 7 January 2009.

Fire Services: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the provision of flood response equipment to firefighters. [243848]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 57W.

Fire Services: Procurement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the outcomes of the consultation on the fire and rescue services' National Procurement Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [242780]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 250W.

Fires: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 136-8W, on fires: death, if she will make it her policy to collect data by type of tenure. [244273]

Mr. Khan: I have asked officials to ensure that practicalities of collecting this information are fully explored as part of the review of the information recorded at incidents attended by fire and rescue services. This is scheduled to take place in the summer and autumn of next year.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Explanatory Memorandum for the Home Information Pack (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2008, for what reasons her Department is not producing a consolidated version of the amended home information pack regulations. [243758]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have yet to take a decision on consolidating amendments to the Home Information Pack regulations, but we keep this under review.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice her Department has given to local authorities on enforcement of the home information pack regulations since they were implemented; [243759]

(2) pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, what guidance has been given to local authority trading standards on enforcement and tackling non-compliance. [243858]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has provided specialist procedural guidance for use by local authority trading standards offices on the HIP duties and their enforcement. There is a copy of this guidance on our website at:

www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk

The Department also maintains regular contacts with LACORS (the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services) on these matters.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will respond to the Office of Fair Trading's report on homebuilding in the UK; what assessment she has made of the extent to which homebuilders have faults in properties they have constructed; and if she will make a statement. [244486]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 2004, the housebuilding industry has routinely monitored levels of customer satisfaction with its performance, against a range of indicators. These include the response to—and treatment of—defects arising from the construction process reported by new build home purchasers. This issue has further been considered and assessed in a number of recent reports including the "Barker Review of Housing Supply", the "Callcutt Review of the Homebuilding Industry" and the recent Office of Fair Trading (OFT) market study "Homebuilding in the UK". This latter study gave particular consideration to the ways in which the fault remedying processes could be improved, and the OFT struck a voluntary agreement with the industry to set up a body to deliver a code of conduct and redress scheme for consumers. This scheme is being implemented according to timetable.

The Government expect to publish its response to the OFT report within the usual timeframe of 90 days from the date of publication.

Housing: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing and planning delivery grant has been allocated to the London Borough of *(a)* Waltham Forest and *(b)* Redbridge for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [244290]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2008-09 the London borough of Waltham Forest was awarded £155,055 and the London borough of Redbridge £1,391,132 under the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. Individual local authority allocations for 2009-10 have not yet been announced.

Housing: Heating

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to amend Part L of the Building Regulations to make the specification of A-rated circulatory pumps mandatory from 2010. [243109]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department is proposing to amend Part L of the Building Regulations to include, for the first time, standards for circulatory pumps from 2010. My officials have been working with the British Pump Manufacturers Association (BPMA) (which account for approximately 85 per cent. of the UK market for pumps) to develop agreed proposals. The BPMA have proposed that for 2010 the Regulations should, as a first step, introduce the Europump labelling scheme for circulators in domestic heating systems and variable speed drives for larger water pumps. The eventual proposals will be the subject of formal consultation in 2009.

Housing: Low Incomes

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applicants are registered on social housing waiting lists in each London borough. [243602]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls.

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in each London borough in 2007 is given in the following table.

Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)—2007

	Number
Inner London	157,840
Camden	10,440
City of London	1,340
Hackney	8,570
Hammersmith and Fulham	8,100
Haringey	10,250
Islington	10,600
Kensington and Chelsea	10,340
Lambeth	14,500
Lewisham	19,850
Newham	24,160
Southwark	8,990
Tower Hamlets	13,980
Wandsworth	8,700
Westminster	8,020
Outer London	176,020
Barking and Dagenham	9,190
Barnet	17,910
Bexley	6,120
Brent	18,610
Bromley	4,430
Croydon	9,780
Ealing	20,650
Enfield	6,990
Greenwich	12,180
Harrow	4,970
Havering	5,480
Hillingdon	8,050
Hounslow	9,920
Kingston upon Thames	5,620
Merton	5,890
Redbridge	11,400
Richmond upon Thames	4,580
Sutton	4,120
Waltham Forest	10,170
London	333,860

Note:

As reported by local authorities.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price for properties purchased by a first-time buyer in England was on the latest date for which figures are available. [243753]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average mix-adjusted house price paid by a first time buyer in England during October 2008 was £152,042.

Source:

Communities and Local Government monthly house price index.

Housing: Regeneration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes are being made to the building targets in the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder areas as a result of the economic downturn. [243756]

Mr. Iain Wright: From 1 December 2008 it is now the responsibility of the Homes and Communities Agency to negotiate building targets with Housing Market Renewal pathfinders, and this will take into consideration local market conditions.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, who the members are of the stakeholder panel. [243719]

Mr. Iain Wright: The membership of the Home buying stakeholder advisory panel, chaired by the Housing Minister, currently comprises:

> The Law Society, Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), Association of Home information Pack Providers (AHIPP), Council of Property Search Organisations ((CoPSO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Which?, Local Government Association (LGA), Land Registry, Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, on home buying and selling, what the evidential basis was on which the decision to end first day marketing on 6 April 2009 was made. [243720]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the Government's policy that HIPs should be available on the first day of marketing. The temporary concession to the policy served a valuable role in smoothing the introduction of HIPs. However, evidence from our area trials, consumer focus groups and gathered through our on-going monitoring of HIPs indicates that consumers are not being shown the HIP and that is in part due to the temporary exemption from the policy. Our decision is also supported by research from Europe Economics, which shows that HIPs have no impact on house prices or transactions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, what the penalties are for a seller giving misleading or incorrect information on a property information questionnaire in a home information pack. [243857]

Mr. Iain Wright: Where the seller gives misleading or incorrect information in the PIQ this may constitute misrepresentation and could lead to the buyer rescinding the contract where the buyer has relied on this information, as is currently the case where similar information is given verbally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, in what ways from April 2009 estate agents will be able to advise buyers about properties they expect to be coming onto the market soon which do not have a completed home information pack. [243859]

Mr. Iain Wright: A home information pack is only required where action is taken with the intention of marketing a particular property. That is the current position and will still be the position in April 2009.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, who the members of the working group convened by the Land Registry are; what its terms of reference are; and when it will be required to report. [243860]

Mr. Iain Wright: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing announced in the written ministerial statement of 8 December that:

> "I have asked Ted Beardsall, former Deputy Chief Executive of the Land Registry, to convene a working group to consider how these (property searches) might be made simpler and more easy to use".

The membership of this group and its terms of reference will be agreed in the new year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, who produced the survey on the 16,000 transactions; and if she will place a full copy of the survey research in the Library. [243861]

Mr. Iain Wright: The survey was carried out by the Connells Group and reported in their press notice dated 13 October 2008.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, who the members of the working group on home condition reports will be; what its terms of reference are; and when it will be required to report. [243862]

Mr. Iain Wright: Membership of the working group on condition information will be agreed in the new year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, on home buying and selling, what obligation owners will have to mention in the home information pack that their home is subject to flood risk; and whether sellers will have the right to omit this information. [243863]

Mr. Iain Wright: The home information pack will include a Property Information Questionnaire (PIQ) from 6 April 2009. Prospective sellers are required to complete a PIQ, which contains two questions relating to flood risk.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social housing new build completions and *(b)* private enterprise new build house completions there have been in each local authority area in the Thames Gateway growth area in each of the last eight years. [242574]

Mr. Iain Wright: Tables showing house building private enterprise and social rent completions in each local authority in the Thames Gateway growth area for the last eight years are shown as follows.

House building completions by tenure, in the Thames Gateway growth area, from 2000-01 until 2007-08

	2000-01		*2001-02*		*2002-03*		*2003-04*	
	Private enterprise	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*
Barking and Dagenham	—	50	107	140	—	30	191	80
Basildon	636	60	392	10	193	50	294	70
Bexley	384	40	196	10	247	100	687	30
Castle Point	77	10	75	—	92	—	73	—
Dartford	213	20	165	20	378	20	558	170
Gravesham	58	20	32	10	134	40	134	20
Greenwich	439	160	1,027	140	1,263	130	710	320
Havering	246	10	174	180	238	40	283	30
Lewisham	1	110	25	130	397	80	—	190
Medway	832	70	519	30	566	—	459	40
Newham	346	50	962	120	426	80	—	90
Rochford	148	10	151	—	144	—	191	—
Southend-on-Sea	102	20	45	60	142	—	134	—
Swale	500	40	456	60	404	60	343	20
Thurrock	611	—	810	10	963	—	819	10
Tower Hamlets	—	210	1,014	360	990	340	1,675	400

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	Private enterprise	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*	*Private enterprise*	*Social rent*
Barking and Dagenham	236	130	249	180	278	120	642	60
Basildon	295	70	234	160	360	80	428	140
Bexley	101	20	103	50	123	50	152	90
Castle Point	116	30	176	—	233	—	76	n/a
Dartford	328	70	299	20	325	20	609	60
Gravesham	428	40	199	40	230	50	173	60
Greenwich	1,326	110	749	110	828	280	—	n/a
Havering	385	70	474	10	488	90	465	110
Lewisham	—	370	—	210	556	170	771	150
Medway	487	50	472	70	366	80	—	n/a
Newham	—	200	—	140	—	260	—	n/a
Rochford	88	10	161	50	353	—	202	—
Southend-on-Sea	262	20	357	20	214	10	271	n/a
Swale	392	30	461	50	637	90	—	n/a
Thurrock	639	10	610	60	631	20	161	10
Tower Hamlets	2,908	200	1,400	750	1,451	760	1,145	310

Notes:

1. The Thames Gateway comprises of parts of 16 local authorities.

2. Figures are as reported by the local authorities and the National House-Building Council.

Where local authorities submitted no P2 returns for one or more quarters, no figure has been presented in the quarter or annual total as presenting NHBC information only would under-report the true level of house building completions in the local authority.

3. For social rent new build:

The figures exclude acquisitions

The figures are shown by the location LA, not by funding LA.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 because they can include imputation for missing returns.

2007-08 figures are not available, so have been estimated based on the trend in the registered Social Landlord new build completions between 2006-07 and 2007-08 (Castle Point, Southend-on Sea, Greenwich, Newham, Swale and Medway could not be estimated)

Source:

Private enterprise:

New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG

Social rent:

Social Housing completion figures are Social Rent New Build figures from the Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS) and HSSA and P2 returns submitted to CLG by local authorities.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets the Government have set for voter turnout at local elections; and if she will make a statement. [243220]

John Healey: The Government have not set any targets for voter turnout at local elections.

Local Government: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Boundary Commission to report on the issue of unitary status for Norfolk and its councils. [243913]

John Healey: The Boundary Committee is due to provide advice by 13 February 2009. The deadline has recently been extended from 31 December 2008 to enable the Boundary Committee to fully comply with its duties to consult.

Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will instruct the Building Research Establishment to take evidence from hon. Members as part of its review into houses of multiple occupation. [241432]

Mr. Iain Wright: Hon. Members may provide evidence on houses in multiple occupation and the licensing regime to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) at the following email address:

breresearch@bre.co.uk

They may also send evidence to BRE Research (HMO and Selective Licensing), BRE, Bucknalls Lane, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9XX.

Responses must be received by 30 January.

Regional Planning and Development: Ebbsfleet

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the progress that is being made towards achieving the target of creating 20,000 new jobs in the Ebbsfleet Valley. [242575]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ebbsfleet Valley will, in the main, be delivered through private sector investment and, in the short term, progress will largely be governed by what is possible for the private sector to achieve under current economic conditions. However, the Ebbsfleet Valley development has always been a long-term project and as the market improves we expect the overall targets to be achieved.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to help achieve the target of creating 20,000 new jobs in the Ebbsfleet Valley; and if she will make a statement. [242576]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are supporting the necessary infrastructure required to help private sector developers achieve their aspirations for Ebbsfleet. The Homes and Communities Agency is considering a contribution to the Homes and Roads project which will provide a series of transport initiatives to improve access and traffic flow to the area and fund public transport improvements. My Department has also funded the Fastrack rapid transit system, which will link Ebbsfleet Valley with the wider Kent Thameside regeneration area. Ebbsfleet is already connected to the European High Speed rail network. Domestic high speed services from Ebbsfleet to St. Pancras start in 2009, increasing the attractiveness of the location for development, investment and employers.

Social Housing Grant

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Homes and Communities Agency will announce its decisions on bids from registered social landlords and arm's length management organisations for social housing grant. [243401]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is continuing to operate the same systems for the Affordable Housing Programme as were in place for the Housing Corporation. Bids for the Affordable Housing Programme are being considered continuously without a fixed timetable or deadline, to facilitate as much flexibility as possible. The HCA will publish quarterly, on their website:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk

the allocations made as a result of approvals of these bids.

Supporting People Programme

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Supporting People funding settlement and administration grant is for each London Borough in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [243350]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the indicative allocations of funding covering 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 81WS, and to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47-48WS, confirming Supporting People final grant allocations for 2008-09. Tables showing the Supporting People allocations were placed in the House of Commons Library following these statements, and in these my hon. Friend will find the Supporting People grant allocations given to each local authority for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The Supporting People programme funding allocations for 2008-09 and the indicative allocations for 2009-10 for each London borough are as follows:

£ million

	Allocation 2008-09	*Indicative allocation 2009-10*
Barking and Dagenham	5.416	5.651
Barnet	7.803	7.803
Bexley	3.194	3.417
Brent	12.807	12.807
Bromley	5.428	5.428
Camden	33.017	32.249

	Allocation 2008-09	*£ million* *Indicative allocation 2009-10*
Corporation of London	0.694	0.682
Croydon	8.952	8.952
Ealing	11.125	11.125
Enfield	11.055	11.055
Greenwich	9.954	9.954
Hackney	22.222	22.222
Hammersmith and Fulham	12.669	12.035
Haringey	20.682	19.648
Harrow	3.833	3.835
Havering	2.759	2.952
Hillingdon	5.954	5.954
Hounslow	5.913	6.060
Islington	15.935	15.935
Kensington and Chelsea	10.670	10.136
Kingston upon Thames	4.406	4.406
Lambeth	20.792	20.792
Lewisham	17.229	17.229
Merton	3.385	3.385
Newham	11.843	12.450
Redbridge	4.701	5.115
Richmond upon Thames	2.640	2.640
Southwark	18.766	18.766
Sutton	3.667	3.667
Tower Hamlets	15.385	15.385
Waltham Forest	8.435	8.858
Wandsworth	11.177	11.177
Westminster	17.052	17.052

From 2008-09, the Supporting People administrative grant is no longer a separate allocation and is paid to each local authority as part of their area based grant.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Leader of the House how many civil servants in her Office have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on her Office's equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242911]

Chris Bryant: There have been no cases relating to the loss or deliberate disclosure of data in the Leader of the House of Commons Office since 1997.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House on what date she last used a train in the course of her official duties. [242609]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House last used a train in the course of her duties on Friday, 28 November 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses registered for VAT in Vale of York constituency in each year from 1997. [240559]

Ian Pearson: The number of businesses registering for VAT in Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table.

Vale of York, businesses registering for VAT

	Number of registrations
1997	315
1998	320
1999	350
2000	325
2001	320
2002	425
2003	410
2004	405
2005	350
2006	370
2007	405

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007" available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of new VAT registrations in Vale of York exceeded the number of de-registrations in every year since 1997.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in Vale of York constituency were VAT-registered in each year from 1997. [240560]

Ian Pearson: The number of businesses registered for VAT in Vale of York constituency between the start of 1997 and the start of 2008 is shown in the table.

Vale of York constituency: VAT registered business

	Number
1997	4,345
1998	4,380
1779	4,430
2000	4,520
2001	4,575
2002	4,652
2003	4,730
2004	4,820
2005	4,920
2006	4,955
2007	5,005

Vale of York constituency: VAT registered business

	Number
2008	5,090

Source:
BERR national statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007' available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Vale of York constituency rose from 4,345 at the start of 1997 to 5,090 at the start of 2008—a rise of 17 per cent.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [242267]

Mr. McFadden: The current IT projects being undertaken in BERR, their lifetime costs, and expected completion dates into service are as follows:

> HR Online—a new HR system for professional users and individual self help services, at an estimated life-time cost of £14 million up until the end of 2012.
>
> SPIRE 3—enhancements to an existing system supporting export control, at an estimated life-time cost of £1 million up until the end of 2011.
>
> RITE—a system allowing remote and secure access to BERR's IT systems, at an estimated development and implementation cost of £800,000, with on-going support costs and length of contract still the subject of negotiation with the Department's preferred IT supplier.
>
> Point of Single Contact—this is an EU Directive and is funded by the EU, at an estimated implementation cost of £1.6 million, with on-going support costs and length of contract still being negotiated with the supplier.

I have asked the chief executives of the agencies Insolvency Service and Companies House to reply to the hon. Member directly.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241965]

Mr. McFadden: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available: 164.36.50.240, 164.36.50.240 and 164.36.50.217.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [242164]

Mr. McFadden: The BERR autumn performance report 2008 was published online on 11 December 2008.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the waste electrical and electronic equipment regulations on the market for compact fluorescent lamps; and if he will make a statement. [242480]

Ian Pearson: No assessment has been made of the effect of the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations on the market for compact fluorescent lamps.

During Compliance Period 1 (1 July 2007 to 31 December 2007) 12.818 tonnes of WEEE was collected in category 5 covering lighting equipment, including light bulbs and household luminaries.

The Department will continue to work with industry, as the UK WEEE system matures, to ensure that the separate collection of all categories of WEEE are maximised.

Internet

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he is considering measures to regulate the administration of UK internet domain names; and if he will make a statement. [242276]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have no proposals in relation to Nominet. Officials in my Department have written to the company seeking clarification of how the present governance of the company reflects the wider stakeholder interest in Nominet's activities in regard to the management of .co.uk Domain Name System. We understand that the company has commissioned an independent review in order to reply fully to that request. We look forward to the outcome of that review.

Post Offices

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the extent of queuing at post offices. [243214]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the right hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Consumer Focus has recently published a report about queuing times at Crown and franchised post offices. The report is available on the Consumer Focus website at:

www.consumerfocus.org.uk

Regulation: Departmental Co-Ordination

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 545W, on regulation: departmental co-ordination, whether the Code of Practice on Guidance applies to *(a)* non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* arms-length public sector regulators. [242044]

Ian Pearson: The Code of Practice on Guidance applies to regulatory guidance issued to business and third sector organisations from Government Departments and non-departmental bodies. It only applies to arms-length public sector regulators when they issue regulatory guidance which affects business and the third sector.

The code also provides a model which may be helpful in other circumstances and can be found at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46950.pdf.

VAT: Small Businesses

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the effect on small businesses of administering the temporary change to rates of value added tax. [242636]

Ian Pearson: My Department is in regular contact with small businesses and their representatives on a range of issues. I am aware that some businesses will face implementation difficulties, but it is important to make this change quickly—to make goods and services cheaper and, by encouraging spending, help stimulate growth.

HMRC is providing advice and guidance to all VAT registered businesses to help them implement this change.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Climate Change

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* objectives, *(b)* proposed timescale and *(c)* estimated costs are of his Department's proposed climate change assessment for Afghanistan. [2[illegible]847]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The current DFID-funded climate change assessment for Afghanistan will assess the impact of forecast climate change, including the impact of drought on the domestic wheat harvest and its contribution to food insecurity, raise national and international awareness of the risks, and support the government of Afghanistan, donors, the private sector and NGOs in implementing policies to adapt to and mitigate changes. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of January 2009. DFID has budgeted up to £110,585 for the assessment.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241184]

Mr. Thomas: Climate change poses a serious long-term threat to development in poor countries. The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to helping countries manage impacts and integrate climate risks and responses into development. Further information on DFID's climate change adaptation policies are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

In addition, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the programme can be found at

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1323-24W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* expected cost was at the outset of each project. [242154]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The original planned completion date for the ARIES Finance, Procurement and Reporting System was end of October 2008. The original contracted cost of the project was £11 million. Built into the original contract were a number of additional cost options (such as usability improvements, improved compliance with Accessibility and Disability Equality standards and a major software upgrade) which were subsequently taken up. This further work has extended the project time and cost. The current total contract value is £17.6 million, and is now due to complete in September 2009.

The Web Transformation project is on track to complete in July 2009. The original projected budget was £2.0 million and the current forecast is £2.5 million.

The Knowledge and Information Management Programme is at an early stage but is on track to complete in March 2011. The original cost estimate of £6.8 million is still accurate.

The Information Technology Infrastructure Programme (ITIP) is on track to complete in March 2011. The original estimate of £5.0 million is still accurate.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 778W, on the departmental internet, if he will list the changes made. [241394]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While the Department for International Development logs the addresses of websites visited by its staff using official equipment, it does not log details of updates made to Wikipedia.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 935W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242312]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As temporary agency staff are not employed by DFID, they are not paid directly through our payroll, nor are they recorded centrally on our HR database. Consequently there is no historical record of how many staff were recruited through each company, and it is not possible to say for how long on average staff worked in DFID in each year.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242111]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has participated in two cross-Government internship schemes aimed at helping address the historic under-representation of women, ethnic minority groups and people with a disability in the civil service. These programmes are specifically for undergraduates/graduates from those groups and are focused on developing an increased understanding of civil service career opportunities. As such, the opportunities provided encompass a wide range of roles across the department. In each of the last three years, eight internships were offered under these schemes. Participants on the scheme worked an average of 36 hours a week. In 2006, the average salary received was £319 a week. In 2007, it was £320 a week. In 2008, it has been £337 a week. All 24 participants, with one exception (4 per cent.), completed their internships.

DFID participates in an annual programme of school work experience for up to 17 14 to 16-year-olds in both London and East Kilbride. The placements are unpaid and last for five working days.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what criteria his Department uses to ensure that multilateral donors have at least as good financial and physical safeguards in place as a bilateral aid project undertaken by his Department; [241908]

(2) what auditing function his Department carries out with multilateral donors. [241909]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: When the Department for International Development (DFID) funds multilateral partners for specific projects we subject them to regular mandatory project cycle management design and approval procedures to establish accounting and audit, in-year and end of project reporting standards and processes. To safeguard UK taxpayers' investment, these include detailed narrative and financial reports on project expenditure, progress achieved with resources used, and assurance that any problems identified are being addressed.

For grants to international organisations, we insist on evidence about the use of funds from the organisation's own audited accounts, or special audited statements. Our requirements are set out in standard (MOU) texts and are built into the funding agreement. It is mandatory for projects with an approved commitment of £1 million and above and which are at least one year old to be reviewed and scored annually.

For core funding, which is general support to the multilateral institution's overall budget, DFID uses institutional strategies (ISs) to set the framework for the funding relationship. ISs include a performance framework that contains measurable indicators and targets, with baselines and data sources that are clearly specified. IS objectives are scored annually. DFID uses the agency's own monitoring systems as far as possible supplemented by independent reviews as required on an annual basis. We insist on evidence about the use of funds from the organisation's own audited accounts, or special audited statements, as well as additional internal controls. For example, the World Bank provides us with an annual set of accounts that has been audited by an external, private sector audit firm, as well as an annual external audit of their financial risk controls. The World Bank also has a strong internal audit department and an independent evaluation arm that regularly tests the quality of the project portfolio and reports publicly. Similarly, the European Union's administrative structures include anti-fraud and internal audit units and the European Court of Auditors, as well as an Evaluation Department.

It is rare for us to provide physical assets to an international organisation. Where we do, these typically remain the property of the UK Government. If the organisation wishes to dispose of the assets or use them for a different purpose to that originally intended, DFID must approve the decision.

Repatriation

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial, *(b)* administrative and *(c)* other resources his Department (i) has provided and (ii) plans to provide in each of the next five years to the Returns and Reintegration Fund from (A) its central budget and (B) its country offices. [241113]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made available up to £35 million over two financial years (2008-09 and 2009-10) to the Returns and Reintegration Fund (which is a pooled fund comprising DFID, FCO, UKBA and MOJ financial resources and expertise, administered by the FCO) of which we have provided £4 million so far this financial year.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [244235]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate. Thousands have been hit by cholera and hundreds have died. Basic services have collapsed. The health services can only respond because of the help ourselves and others are giving. 5 million people need food aid, and more disease outbreaks are likely.

Mugabe has led his country to this humanitarian catastrophe and now denies it exists. We are doing everything we can to save lives, but fundamental change is now required to give power back to the Zimbabwean people and bring this crisis to an end.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Noise

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what level of noise pollution is permitted from each major airport in the UK. [243479]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* In 2003, "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper set out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom over the next 30 years. In it we said that our basic aim is to limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

Prior to entry into service, the noise levels generated by any aircraft design are measured by the applicant/manufacturer and then approved by a certificating authority. With regard to the UK, the approving authority is the European Aviation Safety Organisation (EASA), except for light propeller aircraft and microlights where the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) retains responsibility. Certification noise limits are set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The most recent 'Chapter 4' noise limits for large aircraft were introduced on the 1 January 2006.

The Department for Transport is responsible for specific noise mitigation measures at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. These include noise preferential departure routes, noise departure limits for both day and night with, additionally, strict limits of movements and a quota system—to encourage use of quieter aircraft—at night.

At other UK airports, noise restrictions may be imposed voluntarily by the airport operator or by local planning conditions/agreements and these will vary depending on local circumstances.

In terms of measuring noise, aircraft noise contours for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted using the Leq metric are produced annually for the Department by the CAA. Elsewhere in the UK, it is the responsibility of airports to produce aircraft noise contours as appropriate.

Under the European Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC, all major airports in the UK have been required to produce noise maps for 2006, based on the Lden metric. The directive also requires airports to publish action plans designed to manage noise issues and effects arising from aircraft departing from and arriving at their airport, including noise reduction if necessary. Implementation of the directive in England is a matter for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland it is the responsibility of the devolved Administrations.

Given the difference in parameters, caution should be exercised in attempting any comparison between Leq aircraft noise contour maps and aircraft noise contour maps produced in accordance with the Environmental Noise Directive.

Bus Services: Lancashire

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used to assess the bid for funding by Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council for the Pennine Reach scheme. [243251]

Paul Clark: Blackburn with Darwen borough council is currently clarifying the design of the scheme and has yet to submit a bid for funding. Any bid received will be assessed in accordance with the Department for Transport's guidance entitled 'Guidance for Local Authorities seeking Government funding for major transport schemes' which is available on the Department's website.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242927]

Mr. Hoon: Prior to 2006, the central Department and its agencies recorded no cases of employees being *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information.

Since 2006 fewer than five cases have been recorded. Therefore our response needs to be suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

The Vehicle Certification Agency and the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency could provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242026]

Mr. Hoon: Three members of staff in the Department for Transport and its agencies each received one gift valued at £100 or higher over the last three financial years.

The gifts are as follows:

Fountain pen—Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers

Satnav—Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers

Crystal model—Dubai Road Transport Authority

These gifts have been retained for departmental use.

The Department's policy is that all gifts other than low value items i.e. diaries, must be refused. The only exception to the above is where refusal would cause offence to the donor or misunderstanding.

The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the "Civil Service Management Code", and in departmental staff handbooks.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242133]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department has delegated budget responsibility to the line and therefore does not hold the information centrally. However, the Department's agencies funded the following courses during the last 12 months (November 2007-October 2008):

Department for Transport	*PB1*	*PB2*	*PB3*	*PB4*	*PB5*	*PB6*	*PB7*	*SCS1*	*SCS2*	*SCS3*	*Total*
Undergraduate Degree	1	0	5	16	4	4	0	0	0	0	30
Postgraduate Degrees or Diploma	0	2	9	11	5	12	3	1	0	0	43
Masters Degree	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
MBA Degree	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
PhD Degree	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

Departmental Information Officers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on employing press officers in each year since the Department's inception. [242900]

Mr. Hoon: Press officer function pay costs have been estimated for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08 for the central Department and Executive agencies as follows:

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT(C)	0.85	0.70	0.70	0.77	0.88	0.84
DSA	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
DVLA	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.14
GCDA	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
HA	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.27	0.30	0.36
MCA	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.15	0.15
VCA	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VOSA	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240461]

Mr. Hoon: Expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality is not recorded separately within the Department for Transport.

As reflected in our Staff Handbook, hospitality is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to bringing forward publicly-funded capital works commissioned by his Department; and what discussions he has had with Treasury Ministers on the financing of these projects. [244275]

Mr. Hoon: I announced on 25 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 83-84WS, a number of capital works schemes, costing £1 billion, which will be brought forward. This announcement had the agreement of Treasury Ministers.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Personal Records

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of UK residents whose personal details are held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's *(a)* vehicle register database, *(b)* driver register database, *(c)* local office casework system database and *(d)* driver and vehicle intelligence database. [242430]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* We are not able to provide the number of UK residents currently registered on these databases. However the total number of currently licensed vehicles on the vehicle record and current driving licence holders on the driver database is:

				Number
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Licensed Vehicles	32,258,857	32,897,383	33,368,840	33,956,832
Driver Records	40,681,227	41,335,798	42,011,724	42,736,627

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of personal detail entries relating to UK residents which contained inaccurate information on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's *(a)* vehicle register database, *(b)* driver register database, *(c)* local office casework systems database and *(d)* driver and vehicle intelligence database in each of the last four years. [242431]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Accuracy surveys are completed on the vehicle record (annually) and driver record (biennially) but not on the local office casework system record database or driver and vehicle intelligence database. The reported accuracy levels are:

				Percentage
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Licensed Vehicles	92	97	98	97
Driver Records	n/a	82	n/a	[1]n/a

[1] The 2007 survey of driver records was cancelled. However, the 2003 result reported 82 per cent. accuracy

Full vehicles surveys were conducted in late 2003, 2005 and 2007. Figures for 2004 and 2006 are estimates based on internal measures.

Surveys reporting on 2008 accuracy of both vehicles and drivers databases are currently being undertaken and are due to report early next year. Surveys are now programmed to be conducted every year.

Helicopters: Noise

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the debate of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 626-34, on helicopter flights (London), what progress has been made on the complaints procedure for helicopter noise. [243195]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Civil Aviation Authority's Directorate of Airspace Policy (CAA DAP) has developed a strategy for answering helicopter noise complaints. This includes a well publicised contact point that receives noise complaints from across the UK. Further details are available on the CAA website www.caa.co.uk .

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the debate of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 626-34, on helicopter flights (London), how many helicopter flights have been permitted to depart from the designated route in the London control zone in each year for which figures are available. [243196]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither the Department for Transport nor the Civil Aviation Authority maintain statistics on the number of helicopter flights that have been permitted to depart from the designated routes in the London control zone.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the debate of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 626-34, on helicopter flights (London), what progress his Department, the Civil Aviation Authority and the National Air Traffic Service have made in collecting more comprehensive data on helicopter noise in London. [243197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following discussions between the Department for Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and NATS, a mechanism has been agreed with NATS to provide data on helicopter movements over London. This data is published at regular intervals on the CAA website at the following link

www.caa.co.uk.

Lorries: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have involved heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) *(a)* with mechanical defects, *(b)* that are overweight and *(c)* where drivers' hours have been exceeded in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) region where the accident took place, (ii) the HGV's country of origin and (iii) whether the HGV was left or right hand drive. [242894]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents which involved a heavy goods vehicle with at least one vehicle defect recorded as a contributory factor are given in the table, broken down by (i) region and (ii) left or right hand drive.

Vehicle defect contributory factors include:

Tyres illegal, defective or under inflated

Defective lights or indicators

Defective brakes

Defective steering or suspension

Defective or missing mirrors

Overloaded or poorly loaded vehicle or trailer

Information on drivers' working hours and the country of origin of heavy goods vehicles which are involved in road accidents are not collected. Information on contributory factors is not available before 2005.

						Number of accidents[1]
	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
Government office regions	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*
North East	7	0	5	0	8	0
North West	25	0	34	0	25	1

Number of accidents[1]

	2005		*2006*		*2007*	
Government office regions	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*	*Right hand drive*	*Left hand drive*
Yorkshire and the Humber	21	0	25	0	27	0
East Midlands	28	0	27	1	22	0
West Midlands	23	0	23	0	24	1
East of England	26	1	36	1	28	0
South East	45	0	44	1	37	2
London	15	0	12	0	4	0
South West	18	0	4	0	13	0
Wales	12	0	17	0	14	0
Scotland	17	0	14	0	13	0
Total	237	1	241	3	215	4

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

Lorries: Registration

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles which have operated in the UK in each of the last three years. [242813]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not regularly collected. However an estimate for 2002 of up to 73,000 foreign HGVs was made from a one-off survey of foreign vehicle activity.

It was announced in the Budget for 2008 that the Government will be running a new foreign vehicle survey, scheduled to take place in spring 2009.

Annual data on the total number of trips made by foreign registered heavy goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe from the UK can be found in Table 2.1a of the publication Road Freight Statistics 2007 available in the House of Commons Library and on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221522/222944/28584011/04_RFS_2007_Section_2.pdf.

Pedicabs

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the safety of pedicabs as a means of public transport; what recent reports he has received on pedicab safety; and if he will make a statement. [243059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not specifically assessed pedicab safety, but has received a Transport Research Laboratory report on the subject commissioned by the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association.

As road vehicles, pedicabs must comply with road traffic law including road vehicle lighting regulations, and with The Highway Code. Enforcement is a matter for the police.

Railways: Concessions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what concessionary fare systems there are for disabled people to travel by train. [243871]

Paul Clark: All train companies offer a disabled persons railcard which gives one third off the price of a large range of rail tickets. The railcard currently costs £18 a year.

The terms of this railcard are protected by the Department for Transport through its franchise agreements with the train operating companies.

In addition passengers who are blind or visually-impaired and are travelling with a companion or passengers who stay in their own wheelchair for a rail journey are eligible for discounted travel without the need for a railcard.

Railways: Safety

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what future steps he plans to take in response to the Potters Bar derailment. [244312]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the written statements that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport made to the House on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 19WS, regarding the "Publication of Rail Accident Investigation Branch Investigation" and 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, regarding the "Potters Bar and Grayrigg Derailments".

Road Traffic: Halton

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of traffic on the Silver Jubilee Bridge in Halton was accounted for by heavy goods vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [244210]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2007, heavy goods vehicles accounted for about 7 per cent. of traffic on the Silver Jubilee bridge (A533) in Halton.

Traffic data for individual motorways and 'A' roads for 1997 to 2007 are available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix

Roads: Bexhill

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the Bexhill link road development. [244556]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 379W.

Schools: Transport

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children have been injured while travelling on school buses which were not fitted with seat belts in the last 24 months. [243826]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: The information requested is not available.

Tyres: EU Action

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on EU proposals to introduce legislation to reduce the rolling resistance of tyres. [242635]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: There are currently two proposals from the European Commission aimed at reducing the rolling resistance of tyres. The first of these sets mandatory upper limits on permissible rolling resistance of tyres for passenger cars, light goods vehicles and heavy commercial vehicles in two stages. The Government fully support the Commission's proposed limit values and implementation dates which will reduce fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and contribute towards the UK meeting its carbon dioxide reduction targets.

The second proposal calls for tyre labelling, along the lines of the energy label on white goods, indicating the rolling resistance of the tyre within a set of defined bands from A (lowest rolling resistance) to G (highest rolling resistance).

This proposal has only just been published and EU negotiations on it have not yet begun. The Government supports the principle of providing consumers with information on the relative efficiency of products, but has not yet reached a view on the detail of this second proposal.

Vehicle Number Plates: Flags

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 248-50W, on vehicle number plates, what the timescale is for fulfilling the intention to legalise the display of national flags of UK countries on number plates; and if he will make a statement. [242563]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We intend to make an announcement shortly on the way forward.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will assess the effects of the policy of ceasing carer's allowance when a carer reaches pensionable age; and if he will make carer's allowance available to those of pensionable age; [244249]

(2) how many carers had their entitlement to carer's allowance removed as a result of reaching pensionable age in each of the last five years. [244250]

Jonathan Shaw: Carer's allowance is available to all carers who meet the entitlement criteria, aged 16 or over. Entitlement is not withdrawn when a carer reaches pension age.

However, carer's allowance is an income-replacement benefit and as such, is subject to the overlapping benefit rules. Where a carer is entitled to another income-replacement benefit, such as state pension, then they will be paid the benefit that gives them the highest amount. In the case of pensioners, this is normally state pension.

Low-income carers who have an entitlement to carer's allowance can benefit from the additional amount for carers in pension credit even where state pension is paid instead of carer's allowance. About 240,000 people now receive this extra help.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent consideration he has given to increasing the value of the carer's allowance; [244279]

(2) if he will review the policy that prevents higher education students who are also carers keeping their carer's allowance entitlement when they study for more than 21 hours a week. [244281]

Jonathan Shaw: The level of carer's allowance and its conditions of entitlement, including the 21-hour full-time education rule, were considered by the income task force, created as part of the review of the National Carers Strategy. The new strategy was published in June 2008, and included the report from the taskforce, which gave options for changes to carer's allowance. However, the main finding of the income task force was that the current system of carers' benefits needs to be fundamentally re-examined.

In the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future", published 10 December 2008, we underlined our commitment to looking at carers' benefits in the context of our wider ambitions for welfare reform. We will aim to design a system that is able to provide support where it is most needed and that can adapt to the wide range of needs that carers have, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring.

The level of carer's allowance is considered annually as part of the uprating process. The proposed rate for carer's allowance from April 2009 was announced on 11 December as £53.10.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what comparative assessment he has made of the level of carers' allowance in the UK compared to other EU member states who administer a similar allowance for benchmarking purposes. [244280]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have not undertaken a formal comparative assessment of level of carer's allowance in the UK compared to other EU member states.

However, we have committed to looking at carers' benefits as we move forward with welfare reform. As part of this we will look to learn from best practice both in the UK and internationally.

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243731]

Jonathan Shaw: No departmental funds are used for departmental Christmas parties or staff entertainment. This is in accordance with departmental guidance on financial procedures and on propriety and regularity based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and Her Majesty's Treasury Handbook Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. All staff Christmas parties and staff entertainment events are funded solely at the individual's expense. An extract from the relevant guidance is provided as follows:

Staff Parties/Personal Events

> Departmental funds "must not under any circumstances" be used to purchase food or drink, hire a venue, or contribute in any other way to staff parties, irrespective of whether these relate to personal celebrations (e.g. birthdays or retirement) or are ostensibly to mark a particular business achievement (e.g. the opening of a new office or the award of a contract). Expenditure of this nature is regarded as a disciplinary offence and Departmental practice, where such activities come to light, is generally to seek reimbursement from the authorising officer.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 254-56W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242105]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not all held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Services: General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many GP surgeries in England have jobcentre employment advisers working in them. [241111]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently around 20 GP surgeries in England and Wales which have a jobcentre adviser in them with a similar amount due to have an adviser once the expansion of the pilot is fully in place. In addition, there are 71 GP surgeries in Scotland that have a jobcentre employment adviser working in them for at least part of the week.

Employment Vacancies: Glasgow

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies are available in *(a)* Glasgow South West and *(b)* Glasgow; and if he will make a statement. [240801]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Vacancies in Glasgow city council area and Glasgow south west parliamentary constituency: as at October 2008

	Notified vacancies	*Live unfilled vacancies*
Glasgow south west parliamentary constituency	836	669
Glasgow city local authority	6,742	5,503

Notes:

1. Interpretation of this data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the Nomis website at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately the job opportunities actually available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Housing Benefit: Mentally Ill

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria determine whether housing benefit is paid directly to landlords where tenants are *(a)* mentally ill and *(b)* vulnerable; and what conditions are attached to such payments. [244366]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 861-62W.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in receipt of housing benefit have had their housing benefit paid directly to their landlords on the grounds of *(a)* vulnerability and *(b)* mental illness. [244370]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not available.

Income Support: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* income and *(b)* lump sums paid under (i) a war pension and (ii) the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme are disregarded for the purpose of calculating income support eligibility; and if he will make a statement. [240409]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Income-related benefits, such as income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance, are intended to cover an individual's day-to-day living expenses.

War widows pension, war disablement pension and their replacement, the armed forces compensation scheme, are paid to compensate for death or injury through service in the armed forces. A part of these weekly payments is disregarded when calculating entitlement to income-related benefits.

Certain elements intended to cover mobility or attendance needs, such as constant attendance allowance, are fully disregarded when paid as part of a war disablement pension.

Lump sum personal injury payments made under these schemes are disregarded in full for 52 weeks from the date they are received. Following this they continue to be fully disregarded if placed into a personal injury trust fund or used to purchase an annuity to help secure the injured person's long-term future. Income generated from the trust fund/annuity is also fully disregarded.

Occupational pensions paid under the armed forces pension scheme, which are not paid to compensate for death or injury, are taken fully into account when calculating entitlement to income support and the other income-related benefits.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what conclusions he has drawn from responses to the recent consultation on the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme on an extension of the period within which claims must be made after injury occurs in regard to work-related illness with long gestation periods; [242855]

(2) what conclusions he has drawn from the responses to the recent consultation on the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme in relation to those suffering from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos at work. [242856]

Kitty Ussher: The consultation period ended on 22 October 2008. The consultation asked specifically how we might reform Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit to provide better support to help people adjust to their new circumstances while maintaining the work focus of the modern welfare state, whether lump sum payments are a good way of meeting people's needs, whether they give people more choice and control and whether we could make more use of them.

In the White Paper published on 10 December we have made it clear that while some respondents to the Green Paper consultation supported the principle of lump sum payments for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits customers, others commented that there was a need for ongoing support for some people injured or made ill by work, particularly for those with serious progressive illnesses. We believe that there remains a strong case for continuing to provide particular support for people whose disability arises from work and we think the current Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits scheme is the best way to do this.

We have no plans for further consultation on the new scheme relating to lump sum payments for those suffering from mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos at work.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were per customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff member in each region in each quarter of each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [241031]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1986W.

Jobcentres

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1993-94W, on jobcentres, how many vacancies have been advertised in jobcentres in each of the last six months. [241037]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how may vacancies in the Jobcentre Plus network have been advertised in each of the last 12 months. [241451]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Jobcentre Plus vacancies: Great Britain

	Notified vacancies	*Live unfilled vacancies*
November 2007	381,463	469,282
December 2007	393,606	394,904
January 2008	194,349	299,192
February 2008	459,053	387,359
March 2008	362,386	397,505
April 2008	346,063	385,082
May 2008	341,317	377,648
June 2008	415,627	386,810
July 2008	316,569	353,493
August 2008	405,470	348,451
September 2008	353,036	373,922
October 2008	366,690	383,331

Notes:

1. Interpretation of this data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the Nomis website at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

2. Notified vacancies includes any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.

3. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately the job opportunities actually available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.

4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new jobseeker's allowance applications have been received from people in each age group *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each month of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241196]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answers of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1996-7W, on jobseeker's allowance, whether his Department has compiled data on the amount of time jobseeker's allowance claimants have received the allowance or other out of work benefits over a set period of time including circumstances where a claimant has made more than one claim for an allowance in that period. [242769]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The Department does not publish statistics on the amount of time jobseeker's allowance customers have received the award or other out of work benefits over a set period of time, nor do we publish statistics on circumstances where customers have made more than one claim. This information could be obtained only after complex analysis of the available data and comprehensive quality assurance. As a result it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants moved off JSA and into employment in each month of the last five years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [241073]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Musicians: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the New Deal for Musicians programme was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [240734]

Mr. McNulty: Due to the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is in the table.

Expenditure on new deal for musicians broken down by nation and Government office region

£ million

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	0.131	0.201	0.190	0.159	0.216	0.170	0.095	0.105	0.065
East of England	0.090	0.247	0.131	0.125	0.188	0.192	0.038	0.042	0.049
London	0.279	0.534	0.329	0.235	0.254	0.356	0.532	0.182	0.179
North East	0.159	0.507	0.448	0.385	0.274	0.155	0.028	0.067	0.053
North West	0.432	1.003	0.931	0.684	0.775	0.827	0.382	0.260	0.198
Scotland	0.238	0.435	0.394	0.541	0.091	0.569	0.423	0.280	0.111
Wales	0.380	1.517	1.478	1.180	0.512	0.365	0.171	0.078	0.099
South East	0.014	0.071	0.054	0.072	0.323	0.315	0.278	0.071	0.072
South West	0.143	0.482	0.757	0.631	0.491	0.536	0.235	0.132	0.085
West Midlands	0.112	0.494	0.611	0.414	0.426	0.345	0.040	0.176	0.154
Yorkshire and Humber	0.326	0.458	0.534	0.303	0.297	0.223	0.164	0.122	0.153
Non regional/national level	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.113
Total	2.304	5.947	5.856	4.728	3.849	4.053	2.385	1.516	1.332

Notes:

1. New deal for musicians started in 1999.
2. Expenditure figures exclude admin costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ringfences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
3. All the aforementioned figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
4. The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems.

New Deal Lone Parents: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the New Deal Lone Parents programme was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [240733]

Mr. McNulty: Due to the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on new deal for lone parents broken down by nation and Government office region

£ million

	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	0.062	0.181	1.052	0.476	0.937	1.212	1.445	1.224	1.394	0.965
East of England	0.000	0.196	0.822	0.551	0.781	0.870	0.983	0.572	3.557	1.041

Expenditure on new deal for lone parents broken down by nation and Government office region

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
London	0.438	1.557	1.363	0.895	2.085	3.050	5.025	8.042	9.934	5.211
North East	0.039	0.191	0.577	0.397	1.140	1.242	1.161	0.109	0.336	1.227
North West	0.081	0.580	1.754	1.270	3.029	3.239	3.350	2.661	2.290	3.033
Scotland	0.134	0.657	1.634	1.326	2.421	3.145	3.592	2.432	1.745	0.976
Wales	0.074	0.313	0.632	0.576	1.396	1.612	1.413	1.167	1.482	0.754
South East	0.000	0.022	1.099	0.736	1.381	1.338	1.161	1.398	7.864	1.867
South West	0.056	0.140	0.703	0.564	1.438	1.216	1.361	0.276	0.489	0.905
West Midlands	0.063	0.935	0.900	0.594	1.707	1.439	1.756	2.718	2.451	2.022
Yorkshire and Humber	0.062	0.337	1.118	0.683	1.525	2.080	3.195	3.311	3.101	2.979
Non regional/ national level	0.101	6.722	1.967	0.803	-0.265	0.006	0.031	2.122	6.874	39.374
Total	1.112	11.832	13.620	8.875	17.576	20.449	24.474	26.032	41.517	60.353

Notes:

1. New deal for lone parents started in 1998.
2. Expenditure figures exclude admin costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ringfences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
3. All the figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
4. The spend shown against non-regional/national above represents spend on projects for lone parents managed centrally.
5. Where negative figures are shown against non regional/national level spend, this reflects minor accounting adjustments made as a result of audit, which are credited at national rather than regional level.
6. The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems. The new deal for lone parents totals agree to the departmental report.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what interfaces of *(a)* data and *(b)* process will exist between Provider Referral and Payment and Flexible New Deal providers; [240260]

(2) what contribution Flexible New Deal providers are expected to make to the data record for each Flexible New Deal claimant held by his Department; [240268]

(3) what performance metrics Provider Referral and Payment will track for each Flexible New Deal *(a)* contract and *(b)* provider; [240263]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of the work programme to design, develop, implement and operate provider referral and payment, including a description of IT or consultancy suppliers involved at any stage. [240329]

Mr. McNulty: The provider referrals and payments (PRaP) system will, using the secure Government Gateway, supply flexible new deal providers with the minimum personal data about the customer to enable them to fulfil their contractual obligations and trigger payment. As we are still developing the system, the data that will be transferred remain to be finalised.

Providers will input details of the customer's progress through flexible new deal and PRaP will update each customer's data record.

PRaP data will inform the performance metrics used to track flexible new deal contracts and providers. Other sources of information such as the Labour Market System will also be used. Once it is known which providers have been successful in their bids to operate flexible new deal, we will work with them to ensure that they are ready to operate PRaP to deliver the required services from October 2009 and provide management information as specified.

As the project progresses through key stages in the design, development and implementation of PRaP, the work plan is revised and updated. The final plan, taking the project through to implementation will be agreed in late April. A copy of this will be placed in the Library at that time. PRaP is being developed by the Department's IT suppliers EDS with their Oracle consultancy practice.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children in each age group in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(d)* England and Wales were living in absolute poverty in each year since 1997. [241127]

Kitty Ussher: Available information is shown in the following tables.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in absolute poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. Information is therefore not available at county or unitary authority level.

Data are also not available for the Metropolitan Police area of London, although data are available for the London Government office region. Regional data are presented as three-year averages, due to variability in single-year estimates.

Data are available, for England and Wales on a single-year basis. Only results for England and Wales can be broken down by age group.

Table 1: Numbers and proportion of children in London in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms, three-year averages

	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.4	27
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.4	24
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.3	21
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.3	18
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.3	16
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.3	16
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.3	17
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.3	16

Source:

Households Below Average Income

Table 2: Numbers of children in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms by age range. England and Wales

	Age range				
	All	*0-4*	*5-10*	*11-15*	*16+*
1997-98	3.2	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.3
1998-99	3.0	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.2
1999-2000	2.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.2
2000-01	2.2	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.2
2001-02	1.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2
2002-03	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2
2003-04	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2
2004-05	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2
2005-06	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2
2006-07	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2

Source:

Households Below Average Income

Table 3: Proportion of children in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms by age range. England and Wales

	Age range				
	All	*0-4*	*5-10*	*11-15*	*16+*
1997-98	27	26	29	27	22
1998-99	26	27	27	24	21
1999-2000	23	25	23	23	19
2000-01	19	20	17	19	17
2001-02	15	16	14	16	15
2002-03	14	14	13	14	16
2003-04	14	14	12	15	13
2004-05	13	13	12	14	14
2005-06	13	12	12	14	13
2006-07	13	14	13	13	14

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Household Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for statistics covering London as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. A dependent child is defined as an individual aged under 16. A person will also be defined as a child if they are aged 16 to 19 (or 16 to 18 in years prior to 2006-07); not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; living with parents; and in full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged Government training.
7. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children and proportions have been rounded to the nearest per cent.
8. The Metropolitan Police are responsible for policing within the whole of Greater London with the exception of the City of London. They also police the area covered by Heathrow airport.

Source:

Households Below Average Income

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government *(a)* have taken since January 2008 and *(b)* plan to take in each of the next 12 months towards its target to end child poverty by 2020; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [241128]

Kitty Ussher: Some 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99. Government measures announced since Budget 2007 will lift around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty.

Families with children in the poorest fifth of the population are already on average £4,100 a year better off than in 1997 because of the support we have introduced. The measures we have just announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 will increase this to £4,400 by 2009-10.

We announced in the pre-Budget report that we are bringing forward our commitment to increase the child element of the child tax credit by £25 above indexation from April 2010 to this coming April. We had already planned a £50 increase so from April 2009 the child element will therefore rise by £75 above indexation to £2,235.

And we are bringing forward our planned increases in child benefit, from £18.80 per week to £20 for the first child and from £12.55 to £13.20 for subsequent children, to this January.

While we have made substantial progress we are not complacent. Despite the scale of the challenge the Government's commitment to tackling child poverty is stronger than ever.

Budget 2008 also announced investment of over £125 million over the next three years in child poverty pilots to draw on new ideas to tackle child poverty over the long term.

We are investing in public services; such as education, healthcare and housing which play a key role in overcoming some of the immediate effects of growing up in poverty and provided poor children with opportunities to enhance their life chances and break cycles of deprivation. Hundreds of thousands of families have been helped by new tax credits, better public services and a renewed welfare state.

And as announced in the Queen's speech we will introduce legislation that will reinforce the Government's 2020 commitment to eradicate child poverty.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the reasons the Government did not reduce child poverty by a quarter between 1998-99 and 2004-05; and if he will make a statement; [241163]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the reasons for the rise in levels of child poverty after 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [241165]

Kitty Ussher: The Department for Work and Pensions has a substantial programme of research. Many of the Department's research projects have direct links to our understanding of child poverty and the development of our child poverty strategy (for example, evaluating the support provided for lone parents moving into work). While not their main focus, many other projects have implications for child poverty (for example, the evaluation of Pathways to Work). All our research is published and available on the Department's website. The 2009-10 research programme is currently being established.

Substantial progress has been made in tackling child poverty. Some 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99, reversing the upward trend that saw child poverty double in the 20 years from the late 1970s to the mid 1990s.

The target to reduce child poverty by a quarter between 1998-99 and 2004-05 was established by Public Service Agreements in 2000 and 2002. The target was narrowly missed. Against the indicators used to assess the target, the percentage reduction in this period was 23 per cent. on the before housing costs measure of poverty and 17 per cent. on the after housing costs measure.

The increases since 2004-05, while regrettable, are small and statistically insignificant. The latest figures take us up to March 2007. Since that time, the Government have announced significant measures that will support considerable further progress.

We are investing in public services, such as education, health care and housing which play a key role in overcoming some of the immediate effects of growing up in poverty and provided poor children with opportunities to enhance their life chances and break cycles of deprivation. Hundreds of thousands of families have been helped by new tax credits, better public services and a renewed welfare state.

Measures announced since Budget 2007 will lift around a further 500,000 children out of poverty.

Budget 2008 announced investment of over £125 million over the next three years in child poverty pilots to draw on new ideas to tackle child poverty over the long term.

And as announced in the Queen's speech we will introduce legislation that will reinforce the Government's 2020 commitment to eradicate child poverty.

Unemployed: Qualifications

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate of (i) men, (ii) women and (iii) men and women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 years to state retirement age in each quarter for the last 10 years. [241704]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what her estimate is of the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate of (i) men (ii) women and (iii) men and women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 35 to 49 and (D) 50 to state retirement age was in each quarter of the last 10 years (241704)

The available information requested is provided in the attached tables. Comparable estimates are not available for the periods prior to April 2001. In addition, estimates for Q1 2005 are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1A: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for people with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		People with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59/64[2]*	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
2001	Q2	49	19	68	8	72	6	60	4
	Q3	53	21	66	9	72	5	59	4
	Q4	53	21	66	9	72	5	60	4
2002	Q1	49	22	65	9	72	6	60	4
	Q2	49	20	65	8	72	6	60	4
	Q3	50	23	65	8	72	6	61	4
	Q4	52	20	66	8	72	5	61	5
2003	Q1	48	22	65	9	71	5	61	4
	Q2	48	20	65	8	72	5	62	4
	Q3	51	21	66	8	71	5	62	4
	Q4	52	19	65	8	72	5	61	4
2004	Q1	49	21	65	8	72	4	62	4
	Q2	48	20	65	8	72	5	61	4
	Q3	50	23	65	8	71	4	60	4
	Q4	51	21	66	8	72	4	62	3
2005	Q1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Q2	47	21	66	7	71	5	61	3
	Q3	48	23	65	8	71	5	62	4
	Q4	48	23	65	8	71	5	62	4

Table 1A: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for people with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		People with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64*[2]	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
2006	Q1	46	22	65	9	71	6	61	4
	Q2	45	23	65	10	71	6	62	4
	Q3	48	23	65	9	72	6	62	4
	Q4	48	23	65	10	71	6	61	4
2007	Q1	45	23	66	10	71	6	61	4
	Q2	44	24	66	9	71	6	62	4
	Q3	47	26	66	8	72	5	62	4
	Q4	49	22	65	8	71	6	63	4
2008	Q1	46	23	66	9	71	6	62	4
	Q2	45	23	66	9	71	6	62	4
	Q3	46	27	65	9	71	6	62	4

Table 1B: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for men with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64*[2]	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
2001	Q2	55	20	81	9	79	7	61	5
	Q3	60	21	80	10	80	6	62	5
	Q4	59	22	79	9	80	5	62	5
2002	Q1	58	24	78	10	80	7	62	5
	Q2	58	23	78	8	80	7	62	6
	Q3	56	24	78	8	80	7	62	5
	Q4	58	23	79	7	80	6	63	6
2003	Q1	53	24	77	9	80	6	63	5
	Q2	55	20	79	8	81	6	65	5
	Q3	57	22	79	8	81	5	65	4
	Q4	57	21	78	9	81	5	54	4
2004	Q1	53	22	78	8	81	5	64	4
	Q2	52	21	77	9	80	5	63	5
	Q3	56	23	66	8	80	5	64	4
	Q4	58	20	78	8	80	5	65	4
2005	Q1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Q2	52	22	79	7	79	5	64	4
	Q3	53	23	79	7	80	5	65	4
	Q4	53	24	79	8	80	6	65	4
2006	Q1	58	24	78	9	80	6	64	5
	Q2	60	24	79	10	80	6	65	5
	Q3	55	26	79	9	81	6	65	5
	Q4	54	23	80	9	81	6	64	4
2007	Q1	58	26	80	9	80	6	64	5

Table 1B: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for men with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59-64[2]	
		Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
	Q2	49	24	82	8	81	6	65	5
	Q3	52	26	82	8	81	5	65	5
	Q4	55	23	81	7	80	6	65	5
2008	Q1	51	25	81	9	80	6	65	4
	Q2	50	24	80	9	80	6	65	5
	Q3	52	28	79	9	80	6	65	5

Table 1C: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59-64[2]	
		Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2001	Q2	43	18	56	8	66	5	59	3
	Q3	45	21	54	8	66	4	57	3
	Q4	46	19	53	8	66	5	58	3
2002	Q1	43	19	53	8	65	5	58	3
	Q2	43	17	54	8	66	5	58	3
	Q3	45	20	53	8	66	5	59	3
	Q4	44	19	54	8	66	5	59	3
2003	Q1	43	19	55	7	65	4	59	3
	Q2	40	20	53	7	65	4	60	3
	Q3	45	20	54	8	64	4	60	3
	Q4	46	16	54	7	65	4	59	3
2004	Q1	44	20	53	8	65	4	59	3
	Q2	43	19	53	7	65	5	59	2
	Q3	44	23	54	8	64	4	58	3
	Q4	44	21	54	8	64	4	59	3
2005	Q1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Q2	41	19	52	8	64	5	59	3
	Q3	43	21	51	8	64	4	59	3
	Q4	41	22	51	9	64	5	59	3
2006	Q1	41	19	51	10	64	6	59	4
	Q2	39	21	51	10	63	6	59	4
	Q3	41	23	50	11	63	5	59	4
	Q4	40	22	51	10	63	6	59	4
2007	Q1	38	24	50	11	62	6	59	3
	Q2	37	24	50	11	63	6	60	3
	Q3	41	26	49	9	64	5	59	4
	Q4	43	21	48	9	63	5	60	3
2008	Q1	40	21	49	10	63	6	59	4
	Q2	39	22	50	10	63	5	59	4

Table 1C: Employment and unemployment rates[1] for women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age, calendar quarters, 2001-08, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64[2]*	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
	Q3	36	27	50	11	63	6	59	4

n/a = data not available

[1] Employment rate is calculated as number of people in employment with 5 GCSEs or fewer as a percentage of the population in the individual age group with 5 GCSEs or fewer. The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people unemployed with 5 GCSEs or fewer as a percentage of the economically active population in the individual age group with 5 GCSEs or fewer.

[2] men aged 50-64 and women aged 50-59

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.

Unemployment: Construction

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people currently unemployed who were previously employed in the construction industry. [242467]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has made of the number of people currently unemployed who were previously employed in the construction industry (242467)

According to the latest Labour force Survey (LPS) estimates for the three months to September 2008, 139,000 people were unemployed who stated that within the past 8 years their last paid employment was in the construction industry. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Winter Fuel Payments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claim forms were received for winter fuel payments in 2007-08. [242516]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically but people who are newly eligible and not in receipt of a social security benefit or those who only receive housing benefit, council tax benefit or child benefit need to claim.

In 2007-08 we received 458,334 claim forms in respect of winter fuel payments.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [243901]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on winter fuel payment claims made by households in Essex and Castle Point is not available. Information about the number of payments made to households in those areas is in the table. 2006-07 is the latest year for which information is available.

Winter fuel payments to households

	Essex	*Castle Point*
2002-03	195,215	13,405
2003-04	198,080	13,765
2004-05	204,420	14,395
2005-06	207,900	14,690
2006-07	212,550	15,120

Notes:

1. Figures from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five
2. Figures from 2005-06 are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Cancer

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend eligibility for winter fuel payments to cancer patients aged under 60 years. [241931]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend eligibility for the winter fuel allowance to all cancer patients. [242941]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 and over because they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather during the winter months. The structure of the scheme, which provides for an annual lump sum payment, is not appropriate for the needs of cancer patients whose extra heating needs can arise at any time of year, not just in the winter months.

Help is already available through the disability benefits and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits in recognition of the extra costs, including heating, which people with cancer may have. These are spread over a 52-week period and can have a substantial annual value, up to around £8,000.

The Government believe that the existing help currently provided is the best way to help meet individuals' needs and there are no plans to extend winter fuel payments to other vulnerable groups.

Winter Fuel Payments: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of winter fuel payments in the last financial year. [242847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of winter fuel payments in winter 2007-08 was over £2 billion.

Winter Fuel Payments: Telephone Services

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to the winter fuel payment helpline in each of the last 10 financial years. [242845]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Statistics on the number of calls made to the winter fuel payment helpline are only available from the year 2000, the year the winter fuel payment helpline was set up.

Period: May to April	*Calls*	*Notes*
2000-01	1,171,446	Calls answered (figures for calls received are not available).
2001-02	784,149	Calls received
2002-03	758,441	Calls received
2003-04	543,717	Calls received
2004-05	532,190	Calls received
2005-06	623,867	Calls received
2006-07	406,691	Calls received
2007-08	551,705	Calls received
2008-09	n/a	This exercise is still ongoing and full information is not available.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many publicly-funded scholarships are expected to be available for doctoral students from Commonwealth countries to study at UK universities in each year between 2008-09 and 2012-13. [243996]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office fund doctoral awards through the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP). These include split site awards, where the student comes to the UK for doctoral study for one year. 320 scholars are currently receiving awards through the CSFP. For 2008-09 there are 135 new awards. This includes 16 new awards for developed Commonwealth countries, 94 for developing Commonwealth countries and 25 awards for split site doctoral study for scholars from developing countries. In 2009-10 there will be 146-148 new awards and in 2010-11 there will be 121-123.

In 2008-09 it is anticipated that there will be 15 new Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Awards for doctoral students from Commonwealth countries. Funding for these awards also comes from private sponsors. On the basis of Research Council planning figures for 2009 scholar starts there may be up to 15 commonwealth new scholars supported per annum in future years, depending on securing sufficient private sponsors for the scheme.

The Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS) is an independent HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) scheme. A block grant is given to universities and information on which countries the students come from is not available. HEFCE decided earlier this year that continued investment after 2010-11 could not be justified given other competing priorities for funding. PQ 233995 also refers.

We do not know how many scholarships will b available in 2012-13 as this is in the next spendir review period.

TREASURY

Absenteeism

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of th Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the econom of absenteeism among workers as a result c headaches. [24142

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

No data exists which would allow us to reliabl estimate the cost to the economy of absenteeism amon workers as a result of headaches.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Excheque how many inquiries *(a)* his Department and *(b)* it agencies have received regarding wholesale deposits i (i) Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, (ii) Heritabl and (iii) the UK branch of Landsbanki sinc 1 September 2008. [24223

Ian Pearson: To identify the number of inquirie which we have received would incur disproportionat costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Excheque (1) how many inquiries the Financial Service Authority has received regarding wholesale deposits ir *(a)* Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, *(b)* Heritabl and *(c)* the UK branch of Landsbanki sinc 1 September 2008; [242231

(2) what advice the Financial Services Authority ha offered to UK companies which had wholesale deposit with *(a)* Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, *(b* Heritable and *(c)* the UK branch of Landsbanki [242232

Ian Pearson: These are matters for the Financial Services Authority.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance the Financial Services Authority has given to those banks in receipt of public money to assist their liquidity on building up their balance sheets. [244459]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Business: Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what support *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs offer to UK companies which had wholesale deposits with (i) Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, (ii) Heritable and (iii) the UK branch of Landsbanki; [242229]

(2) what advice *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has issued to UK companies which had wholesale deposits with (i) Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, (ii) Heritable and (iii) the UK branch of Landsbanki. [242233]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 8 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 279 and 280, and on 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 548.

Additionally, as part of a substantial package of support the Chancellor announced in PBR 2008 that HMRC had introduced a new Business Payment Support Service. Businesses in genuine but temporary financial difficulty will be offered a fast and streamlined service for arranging to pay their HMRC tax bill to a timetable they can afford. HMRC will offer further practical help by not imposing additional surcharges on the tax within a time to pay arrangement.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly-drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy-making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243043]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report,* column 1392W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Equitable Life

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Government plan to publish their response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on Equitable Life. [244483]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 261W.

EU Budget

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's estimated *(a)* net contribution, *(b)* gross contribution and *(c)* gross contribution after abatement to the EU will be in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010, calculated on the basis current exchange rates. [243023]

Ian Pearson: The Government's latest forecast of UK net contributions to the EC Budget for the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 were included in Table B16 (page 210) of the pre-Budget report (Cm 7484) published on 24 November 2008.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 66-7WS, on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, if he will reassess the merits of his plans to remove the fuel duty rebate for biofuels in 2010-11 following the discovery of the drafting error in the 2007 Order. [244548]

Angela Eagle: The Department for Transport is currently consulting on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, which closes on 17 December 2008. The amendment being consulted upon does not affect the long term future of biofuels in the UK.

The Government's policy to remove the fuel duty differential from 2010-11, and to encourage the development of the cleanest, most sustainable biofuels through the RTFO, remains unaffected.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reference HM Revenue and Customs makes to the Gambling Commission's requirements and technical standards for gaming machines when determining for taxation purposes whether particular machines have an element of chance. [244105]

Angela Eagle: It is not the practice of HMRC to refer to the Gambling Commission's technical standards for gaming machines to determine whether any particular machine has an element of chance. The Commission's technical standards for gaming machines are not designed for the purpose of determining whether any particular machine has an element of chance.

Financial Services Authority: Secondment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Financial Services Authority (FSA) staff are on secondment from *(a)* HSBC, *(b)* Lloyds TSB, *(c)* HBOS, *(d)* Northern Rock, *(e)* Bradford and Bingley and *(f)* the Royal Bank of Scotland; who pays the salaries for secondees to the FSA; and what proportion of FSA staff is made up of secondees. [244228]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Financial Services: EU Action

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is in relation to the work of the EU high-level group on regulation of financial services chaired by M. de Larosiere, established in October 2008. [244308]

Ian Pearson: The Commission has established a 'High Level group' led by Jacques de Larosiere to advise it on supervision, financial stability oversight cooperation, early warning mechanisms and crisis management, and how national supervisors in the EU should cooperate globally. It will report in the spring. Although an internal group established by the Commission, the Government will contribute fully to the group's work.

Lloyds TSB: Pay

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects to be consulted on the size of any stock bonuses awarded to Lloyds TSB directors during *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [240442]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The Government have set up UK Financial Investments (UKFI) to manage the stakes they take in financial institutions including Lloyds TSB. Part of UKFI's remit is to ensure appropriate implementation of the terms of the recapitalisation agreements with the banks, including those relating to directors' bonuses.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244027]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has welcomed the report, published on 21 October 2008, which provides a useful insight into the future implications of mental capital and wellbeing for the economy and society as a whole.

The Treasury recognises the importance of encouraging and enabling everyone to fulfil their potential. We have developed a range of public service agreements to drive improvements and coordinate Government action in this area, for example on maximising employment opportunities for all, promoting better health and wellbeing, tackling social exclusion and meeting the challenges of ageing. We also continue to work closely across Government to respond to emerging policy recommendations on mental capital and wellbeing, such as Dame Carol Black's review on health, work and wellbeing.

Royal Family: Official Gifts

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what record is kept by his Department of gifts given to the monarch and other members of the Royal Family; and how such gifts are managed. [243000]

Mr. Darling: None.

Taxation: Overpayments

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of requiring HM Revenue and Customs to pay an equivalent amount of interest on tax over-demanded and subsequently refunded to that which they charge on overdue tax. [243055]

Mr. Timms: All interest rates charged and paid out by HMRC are determined by reference to formulae set out in legislation. For most taxes and duties the rates applied on overpayments are lower than that applied on underpayments of tax and this is in line with commercial practice.

HMRC has been consulting on a new regime for charging and paying interest, based on the principles of recompense, fairness and simplicity

Ulster Bank

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of th Exchequer further to his contribution on 26 Novembe 2008, *Official Report*, column 752, on the legall binding agreements with the Royal Bank of Scotlan Group, Lloyds TSB and Halifax Bank of Scotland whether he expects these agreements to extend t Ulster Bank. [24277

Ian Pearson: The recapitalisation agreement is betwee the Treasury and the RBS holding company. Ulste Bank is part of the RBS holding company.

Unemployment

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of th Exchequer what modelling he has undertaken o predicted levels of unemployment in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 for formulation of hi Department's policy. [24446

Angela Eagle: For the purposes of the public financ projections the Treasury uses an assumption for th level of the UK claimant count in each year of th forecast horizon. This assumption is based on an averag of independent external forecasts and audited by th National Audit Office.

For pre-Budget report 2008, details of the assume level of claimant count unemployment can be found i box B1, in Annex B on the public finances, in th pre-Budget report 2008 document (Cm 7484).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy o Lancaster (1) with reference to the answer to the hon Member for Fareham of 13 October 2008, *Officia Report*, columns 942-43W, on 10 Downing Street, how many desk spaces are allocated to the Downing Street Political Office; [241901

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Membe for Fareham of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 795W, on Departmental Staff, how many staff work in the Downing Street Political Office according to records held by the Downing Street switchboard. [242043

Mr. Watson: As has been the practice under successive Governments, staffing and associated costs for the Political Office are met from party funds.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 942-3W, on 10 Downing Street, whether the table showing the 87 members of staff working in the Cabinet Office who were not employed by the Civil Service includes those in the Downing Street Political Office. [241903]

Mr. Watson: The 87 members of staff did not include Political Office staff. As has been the practice under successive Governments, staffing and associated costs for the Political Office are met from party funds.

10 Downing Street: Catering

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on 10 Downing Street: catering, whether the Cabinet Office support for the public sector food procurement initiatives entails that genetically modified ingredients are used or not used in food served in the Downing Street canteen. [242042]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W.

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, on departmental manpower, whether the figure of 189 staff on the No. 10 payroll includes the staff in the Downing Street Political Office. [242045]

Mr. Watson: No. As has been the practice under successive Governments, staffing and associated costs for the Political Office are met from party funds.

British National Party: Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance is provided to civil servants on the compatibility of British National Party activism with holding senior positions of authority. [241772]

Mr. Watson: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Code" and the restrictions on political activities as set out in Section 4.4 of the "Civil Service Management Code" copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House or can be accessed on line at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April08.doc

Charities: Investment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish the list of financial institutions that charities could place investments and deposits in which was approved by the Charity Commission and in effect in September 2008. [241596]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on whether the Charity Commission, prior to the Icelandic banking crisis, approved and issued a list of financial institutions suitable for use by charities.

Our role as the Regulator of Charities is to offer general advice and support to trustees on their duty to control and manage a charity's finances and investments. We do not recommend, promote or endorse any banks or financial services to charities, and we have neither approved or issued a list of financial services where charities could place investments and deposits.

We offer advice, guidance and support to charities but are not able to act in their administration except in certain cases involving misconduct or mismanagement.

Immediately following the Icelandic banking crash, we issued information on our website specifically for charities that were affected. This may be the source of the misunderstanding which has arisen regarding the advice we have given. The main aim of this guidance was to help charities identify which were likely to be eligible to claim compensation for their lost deposits through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The guidance will be updated with any new or additional information that might be of help to these charities.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Conferences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance has been produced on civil servants attending political party conferences. [241747]

Mr. Watson: The rules on civil servants' involvement in political activities is set out in section 4.4 of the "Civil Service Management Code", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House or can be accessed online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/CSMC_April08.doc

In advance of the annual party conference season, the Cabinet Secretary issues guidance to Departments reminding them of civil servants' involvement in such conferences.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance has been produced on the relationship between the salary of senior civil servants and the number of staff they manage. [241754]

Mr. Watson: The information on job evaluation for senior posts has been placed in the Library.

Civil Service Bill

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the anticipated timetable is for the *(a)* publication and *(b)* parliamentary passage of the Civil Service Bill. [242027]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the Queen's Speech of 3 December 2008 which set out the Government's legislative programme for this Session.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242141]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office is committed to life-long learning for all its employees and supports individuals who want to study for recognised qualifications. Individual management units decide on levels of support for their staff who undertake study for qualifications.

Information on the number of staff who are funded is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 741W, on Wilf Stevenson, on what date Wilf Stevenson was appointed as a special adviser. [241672]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 6 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 741W.

Departmental Video Recordings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 949W, on departmental recordings, if he will publish the title, description and date submitted of each video on the departmental intranet based on the data held in the intranet database. [241897]

Mr. Watson: I have nothing further to add to the answers I gave to the right hon. Member on 13 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 949W and 4 June 2008, *Official Report,* column 1046W.

Employment

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the change in number of people in employment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Peterborough and *(e)* North West Cambridgeshire in the last 12 months. [242875]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician. I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting what estimate has been made of the change in number of people in employment in (a) England (b) East of England (c) Cambridgeshire (d) Peterborough and (e) North West Cambridgeshire in the last 12 months. (242875)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for National and regional level using the Labour Force Survey (LPS) and for smaller areas using the Annual Population Survey (APS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1. attached, shows the number of people aged 16+ resident in England and the East of England who were in employment in the three month period July to September 2008. which is the latest period for which figures are available, and the change from one year earlier using LFS.

Table 2. attached, shows the number of people aged 16+ resident in Cambridgeshire. Peterborough (UA) and North West Cambridgeshire who were in employment in the 12 month period ending in March 2008, which is the latest period for which figures are available, and the change from one year earlier using APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainly.

Table 1: The change in employment level[1] for people resident in England and the East of England

thousand

Three month period	*England*	*East of England*
July to September 2007	24,609	2,777
July to September 2008[2]	*24,742	*2,816
Change on year	+133	+39

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See guide to quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Table 2: The change in employment level[1] for people resident in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough (UA) and North West Cambridgeshire using the annual population survey

thousand

12 month period ending	*Cambridgeshire*	*Peterborough (UA)*	*North West Cambridgeshire*
March 2007	296	80	61
March 2008[2]	**317	***78	***59
Change on year	+21	-3	-2

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See guide to quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Government Communications Network: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what criteria are used by the Government Communication Network to decide whether a government communications job is advertised publicly on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway or internally only. [241755]

Mr. Watson: Individual Departments are responsible for advertising their communication jobs to the public and internally across Departments.

The Government Communication Network (GCN) advises that Government communications jobs which are open to the public are advertised on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and across the GCN.

Government Departments: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable is for the commencement and review of the Public Services Forum's Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government contracting agreement. [241597]

Mr. Watson: The Public Services Forum Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice came into force on the day it was launched: 15 July 2008. An initial review of the first six months of its operation will take place, as set out in the joint statement.

Immigration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 408W, on immigration, what the level is of net immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates, mortality and emigration levels and on the basis of the most recent population projections. [243465]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, pursuant to the answer of 18th November 2008 (Official Report, column 408W) on immigration, regarding what the level of net immigration is at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates, mortality and emigration levels on the basis of the most recent population projections. (243465)

Migration assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration) rather than for the gross flows separately. However, nominal immigration and emigration totals are used in the projection process mainly to enable plausible age distributions to be calculated for the assumed net migration totals.

The 2006-based principal (or central) projection assumed a long-term annual net inflow to the UK of +190,000 persons a year. In this projection, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2028. To answer your question, further population projections have been produced by reducing the nominal immigration totals applied in the 2006-based principal projection, but leaving the fertility, mortality and emigration assumptions unchanged. Based on these assumptions, with a long-term net migration inflow of +60,000 a year, the population would reach 70 million in the 2070s. However, with a net migration inflow of +50,000 a year the population would be just below 70 million in 2081, although it would still be continuing to rise.

In practice, this may not be a realistic scenario. If immigration fell permanently to levels well below those experienced in recent years, it is likely that this would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well, it is possible to have a range of combinations of levels of immigration and emigration consistent with any particular level of net migration and these would lead to different projected population sizes.

National School of Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the brochures for courses run by the National School of Government. [241759]

Mr. Watson: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the Principal and Chief Executive to assist by writing to you.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated December 2008:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the National School of Government.

In consideration of your request, I confirm that copies of the full National School of Government portfolio of courses for 2008-09 and other specialist brochures have been placed in the Library of the House. Latest information on courses and services is always available on the National School web site:

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/

National Security

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the level of threat to national security from *(a)* an influenza pandemic and *(b)* a bioterror attack. [242466]

Mr. Watson: The National Risk Register, published earlier this year as part of the Government's wider National Security Strategy, sets out our assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that may directly affect the UK. The document is available in the Libraries of the House and is also accessible online via the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/national_risk_register.aspx

The assessments for pandemic influenza and 'bioterror attack' are detailed at paragraphs 2.27 and 2.104 of this document respectively.

Non-profit Making Associations: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding the Office of the Third Sector is providing to regional Third Sector networks; and what the address is of each such network. [241594]

Kevin Brennan: Figures for funding to regional third sector networks during 2008-09 will be available when the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts are published and laid before Parliament. I expect this to be before summer recess in 2009.

In 2007-08 direct funding from the Office of the Third Sector to regional third sector networks was through the Regional Infrastructure programme. This is a three year programme, from 2005 until March 2009. Recipients during 2007-08 were as follows:

Region	*Organisation*	*Amount (£)*	*Address*
East of England	MENTER	61,000	62-64 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 DU
	Community and Voluntary Forum: eastern region	61,000	Eagle Stile, Rectory Farm Barns, Walden Road, Little Chesterford, Essex CB10 1UD
London	London Voluntary Service Council	61,000	356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
	MiNet (Minority Network)	61,000	Suite 101, Cremer Business Centre, 37 Cremer Street, London E2 8HD

Region	*Organisation*	*Amount (£)*	*Address*
East Midlands	VOICE[1]	30,500	66 Carlton Road, Nottingham, NG3 2AP
	ENGAGE[1]	61,000	7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB
North East	Voluntary Organisations' Network North East	61,000	9th Floor, Cale Cross, 156 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6SU
	BECON	61,000	182 Portland Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 1DJ
North West	North West Network	61,000	2nd Floor, Albert House, 17 Bloom Street, Manchester
	Voluntary Sector North West	61,000	St. Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6FZ
South East	Regional Action and Involvement South East	61,000	Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guilford GU1 4GA
	Regional Action and Involvement South East (Diversity & Equality Project)	61,000	Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guilford GU1 4GA
South West	South West Forum	61,000	Unit 6, Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Matford Business Park, Exeter EX2 8PW
	Black South West Network	61,000	5 Russell Town Avenue, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9LT
West Midlands	Regional Action West Midlands	66,000	Waterlinks House, Richard Street, Birmingham B7 4AA
	bRAP	51,244	9th Floor, Edgbaston House, 3 Duchess Place, Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8NH
	West Midlands Local Government Association	2,000	3rd Floor Albert House, Quay Place, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham B1 2RA
Yorkshire & Humber	Housing Action Yorkshire and Humberside—Key House	13,000	Regional Homelessness Network, 130 North Street, Keighley BD21 3AD
	Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum	61,000	Suite D10, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds LS3 1AB
	Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum (BME Panel)	25,000	Suite D10, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds LS3 1AB
	Bradford LGB Partnership	8,000	Equity Partnership, Perkins House, 1 Longlands Street, Bradford BD1 2TP
	Northern Refugee Centre	15,000	Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1 4SE

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[1] VOICE and ENGAGE have now merged to form One East Midlands, whose address is Nottingham Voluntary Action Centre, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FB.

Unemployment: Disabled

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate for disabled ethnic minority (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to state retirement age was in each quarter of the last 10 years; [241443]

(2) what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate for disabled (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to state retirement age was in each quarter of the last 10 years. [241442]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate for disabled ethnic minority (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to state retirement age was in each quarter of the last 10 years. (241443); and what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate for disabled (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to state retirement age was in each quarter of the last 10 years. (241442)

The available information requested is provided in the attached tables. Table 1 contains employment rates for people with disabilities and for people with disabilities who consider their ethnic group to be non-white. Table 2 contains unemployment rates for the same categories. Comparable data by ethnic group is not available prior to April 2001.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). In the LFS, people with disabilities are defined as those who have a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they might do, or both. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. The estimates for men and women with disabilities from a non-white ethnic group given in this answer should be treated with caution as they are not considered reliable for practical purposes.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in Autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1A: Employment rates[1] for people with disablities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		People with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64*[4]	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
1998	Q2	48	n/a	52	n/a	49	n/a	35	n/a
	Q3	52	n/a	52	n/a	51	n/a	35	n/a
	Q4	51	n/a	52	n/a	52	n/a	36	n/a
1999	Q1	46	n/a	53	n/a	52	n/a	36	n/a
	Q2	47	n/a	54	n/a	54	n/a	38	n/a
	Q3	50	n/a	54	n/a	53	n/a	38	n/a
	Q4	48	n/a	53	n/a	54	n/a	39	n/a
2000	Q1	45	n/a	53	n/a	54	n/a	38	n/a
	Q2	45	n/a	53	n/a	53	n/a	39	n/a
	Q3	46	n/a	55	n/a	53	n/a	39	n/a
	Q4	48	n/a	56	n/a	54	n/a	39	n/a
2001	Q1	47	n/a	54	n/a	54	n/a	39	n/a
	Q2	48	38	54	37	53	40	39	25
	Q3	50	30	54	36	53	37	39	26
	Q4	48	31	54	42	55	41	40	29
2002	Q1	47	32	54	44	54	39	40	30
	Q2	46	32	53	44	55	37	41	27
	Q3	48	29	54	49	54	36	42	26
	Q4	48	27	56	48	55	37	43	26
2003	Q1	44	31	56	41	54	35	42	28
	Q2	44	34	56	40	54	37	43	30
	Q3	45	42	56	43	55	37	43	27
	Q4	45	43	54	39	56	39	42	32
2004	Q1	47	38	53	40	56	40	45	35
	Q2	45	40	54	44	55	41	43	36
	Q3	47	34	54	42	56	44	45	34
	Q4	48	30	54	36	56	42	45	32
2005	Q1	44	20	54	41	56	40	45	34
	Q2	44	19	54	39	56	44	45	29
	Q3	47	26	54	38	56	36	45	35
	Q4	44	28	56	40	56	36	45	33
2006	Q1	44	30	56	48	57	39	45	34
	Q2	43	29	53	38	56	42	46	33
	Q3	45	23	53	37	57	42	47	34
	Q4	43	24	53	41	56	42	46	35
2007	Q1	43	27	54	42	55	42	45	32
	Q2	40	28	55	39	54	40	47	35
	Q3	41	26	55	48	56	46	47	38
	Q4	44	25	55	39	55	41	47	35
2008	Q1	42	23	55	44	55	43	47	37
	Q2	43	29	57	44	56	43	47	36
	Q3	44	33	55	40	55	43	47	40

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 1B: Employment rates[1] for men with disabilities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
1998	Q2	48	n/a	60	n/a	53	n/a	35	n/a
	Q3	53	n/a	59	n/a	55	n/a	36	n/a
	Q4	48	n/a	56	n/a	58	n/a	36	n/a
1999	Q1	49	n/a	63	n/a	56	n/a	38	n/a
	Q2	48	n/a	59	n/a	59	n/a	38	n/a
	Q3	51	n/a	61	n/a	58	n/a	38	n/a
	Q4	50	n/a	60	n/a	59	n/a	38	n/a
2000	Q1	46	n/a	62	n/a	60	n/a	39	n/a
	Q2	46	n/a	62	n/a	59	n/a	39	n/a
	Q3	44	n/a	63	n/a	60	n/a	40	n/a
	Q4	47	n/a	63	n/a	60	n/a	40	n/a
2001	Q1	45	n/a	61	n/a	60	n/a	40	n/a
	Q2	49	32	61	50	57	50	40	27
	Q3	51	30	61	48	58	45	41	31
	Q4	48	35	60	52	60	51	41	31
2002	Q1	45	27	58	53	59	45	41	34
	Q2	45	35	58	53	60	40	42	31
	Q3	47	27	58	56	61	42	42	29
	Q4	48	24	61	56	62	46	44	31
2003	Q1	44	36	61	51	61	46	44	36
	Q2	45	38	61	49	61	49	44	38
	Q3	44	35	61	51	62	49	44	29
	Q4	46	45	59	46	61	49	44	34
2004	Q1	46	31	58	48	62	49	46	38
	Q2	44	32	58	48	61	51	44	41
	Q3	47	33	57	50	62	50	46	40
	Q4	45	30	58	38	62	51	46	39
2005	Q1	42	17	56	45	60	46	46	42
	Q2	42	18	59	42	60	52	46	36
	Q3	46	32	58	45	61	42	46	42
	Q4	43	25	62	49	60	43	46	40
2006	Q1	42	23	60	60	62	50	45	44
	Q2	43	26	57	48	60	52	47	41
	Q3	46	13	58	49	61	49	47	39
	Q4	42	25	58	53	61	51	46	40
2007	Q1	41	33	60	50	60	49	46	36
	Q2	41	30	61	52	59	48	47	38
	Q3	40	21	58	58	61	56	48	43
	Q4	42	23	56	46	60	52	48	41
2008	Q1	43	23	61	58	60	54	48	42
	Q2	42	27	59	54	60	53	48	43

Table 1B: Employment rates¹ for men with disabilities², by age group and ethnicity³, calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with disabilities							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59/64⁴	
		All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white
	Q3	44	32	50	48	50	51	49	50

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 1C: Employment rates¹ for women with disabilities², by age group and ethnicity³, calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with disabilities							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59/64⁴	
		All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white
1998	Q2	47	n/a	45	n/a	46	n/a	34	n/a
	Q3	50	n/a	45	n/a	48	n/a	34	n/a
	Q4	54	n/a	48	n/a	47	n/a	37	n/a
1999	Q1	43	n/a	44	n/a	49	n/a	34	n/a
	Q2	47	n/a	49	n/a	49	n/a	38	n/a
	Q3	48	n/a	40	n/a	49	n/a	36	n/a
	Q4	47	n/a	47	n/a	48	n/a	39	n/a
2000	Q1	45	n/a	45	n/a	46	n/a	38	n/a
	Q2	44	n/a	46	n/a	48	n/a	39	n/a
	Q3	47	n/a	48	n/a	48	n/a	38	n/a
	Q4	50	n/a	40	n/a	49	n/a	38	n/a
2001	Q1	50	n/a	47	n/a	48	n/a	38	n/a
	Q2	48	42	47	26	49	32	38	23
	Q3	40	31	47	28	48	30	37	20
	Q4	40	27	48	36	50	32	39	26
2002	Q1	50	38	40	37	50	34	38	25
	Q2	47	29	40	35	51	34	40	24
	Q3	49	32	50	41	49	31	41	24
	Q4	47	30	50	41	49	30	41	19
2003	Q1	45	25	51	34	48	27	41	19
	Q2	43	30	51	33	49	28	41	20
	Q3	45	40	52	37	49	28	42	26
	Q4	45	41	49	33	50	32	41	31
2004	Q1	47	47	49	31	50	32	43	31
	Q2	46	46	50	40	50	33	42	31
	Q3	48	36	51	35	51	40	43	27
	Q4	51	30	50	32	51	36	43	26
2005	Q1	45	22	51	37	52	34	44	26
	Q2	46	19	50	35	52	37	42	23
	Q3	48	20	50	31	52	31	44	29
	Q4	46	31	51	33	52	31	43	28
2006	Q1	45	41	52	38	52	31	45	25
	Q2	42	32	50	28	53	34	45	25
	Q3	44	34	40	25	53	37	45	29
	Q4	45	23	48	31	51	33	45	30

Table 1C: Employment rates[1] for women with disabilities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59/64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
2007	Q1	45	21	49	35	51	35	45	28
	Q2	46	24	50	27	50	33	46	31
	Q3	42	34	52	30	52	37	46	30
	Q4	46	29	53	32	51	33	46	30
2008	Q1	42	21	50	30	52	32	46	33
	Q2	45	32	54	33	52	34	44	29
	Q3	43	34	51	32	52	36	45	30

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Employment rate is calculated as number of people in employment as a percentage of the population in the individual age group.

[2] Comprises people who have a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they might do, or both.

[3] Comprises people who have a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they might do, or both, from a non-white ethnic group.

[4] Men aged 50-64 and women aged 50-59.

Notes:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Table 2A: Unemployment rates[1] for people with disabilities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		People with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59/64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
1998	Q2	20	n/a	14	n/a	9	n/a	9	n/a
	Q3	22	n/a	12	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
	Q4	20	n/a	12	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
1999	Q1	22	n/a	11	n/a	10	n/a	8	n/a
	Q2	21	n/a	10	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
	Q3	21	n/a	11	n/a	9	n/a	7	n/a
	Q4	26	n/a	14	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a
2000	Q1	20	n/a	14	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
	Q2	20	n/a	13	n/a	8	n/a	8	n/a
	Q3	23	n/a	10	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a
	Q4	19	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a	7	n/a
2001	Q1	19	n/a	10	n/a	8	n/a	6	n/a
	Q2	17	33	10	17	7	16	6	18
	Q3	18	30	11	24	7	17	6	23
	Q4	20	41	10	18	7	13	6	19
2002	Q1	19	33	12	16	7	12	5	15
	Q2	18	24	10	13	7	14	5	17
	Q3	19	38	9	10	8	19	5	15
	Q4	17	38	8	12	7	18	5	16

Table 2A: Unemployment rates[1] for people with disabilities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		People with disabilities							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59-64[4]	
		All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white
2003	Q1	20	37	9	16	7	17	6	12
	Q2	19	22	9	18	6	11	6	12
	Q3	25	34	9	14	6	16	6	16
	Q4	18	24	9	18	7	16	5	15
2004	Q1	16	24	11	22	6	14	4	6
	Q2	19	27	9	18	6	13	5	10
	Q3	19	28	9	15	6	13	4	8
	Q4	18	33	10	24	5	11	5	9
2005	Q1	19	30	10	17	6	14	5	10
	Q2	18	31	10	25	6	8	6	10
	Q3	21	44	11	18	6	15	5	11
	Q4	22	32	10	16	7	18	5	13
2006	Q1	20	29	11	16	7	20	6	12
	Q2	22	32	12	16	8	19	5	12
	Q3	25	30	12	24	7	18	5	10
	Q4	22	30	12	14	8	20	5	9
2007	Q1	21	35	11	19	7	17	6	9
	Q2	23	41	10	26	8	19	6	14
	Q3	25	30	10	17	8	13	6	11
	Q4	21	34	11	22	7	17	6	10
2008	Q1	25	47	11	17	7	15	6	10
	Q2	25	37	10	17	8	12	6	13
	Q3	25	34	10	18	9	15	6	12

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 2B: Unemployment rates[1] for men with disabilities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with disabilities							
		16 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 49		50 to 59-64[4]	
		All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white	All	Non-white
1998	Q2	22	n/a	14	n/a	11	n/a	10	n/a
	Q3	24	n/a	13	n/a	11	n/a	10	n/a
	Q4	24	n/a	14	n/a	9	n/a	9	n/a
1999	Q1	22	n/a	9	n/a	12	n/a	9	n/a
	Q2	26	n/a	12	n/a	10	n/a	9	n/a
	Q3	24	n/a	13	n/a	11	n/a	9	n/a
	Q4	23	n/a	15	n/a	9	n/a	9	n/a
2000	Q1	24	n/a	15	n/a	9	n/a	10	n/a
	Q2	23	n/a	13	n/a	9	n/a	9	n/a
	Q3	29	n/a	11	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
	Q4	24	n/a	9	n/a	7	n/a	8	n/a
2001	Q1	24	n/a	12	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a
	Q2	19	43	11	13	9	13	7	26

Table 2B: Unemployment rates[1] for men with disablities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Men with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
	Q3	22	43	12	22	8	20	7	25
	Q4	25	46	13	24	7	12	7	23
2002	Q1	25	47	14	19	8	15	6	16
	Q2	22	26	12	14	8	20	6	19
	Q3	22	42	12	12	9	22	6	16
	Q4	20	43	10	13	8	16	6	11
2003	Q1	26	36	10	16	8	17	6	12
	Q2	23	24	10	15	8	12	6	7
	Q3	29	41	11	17	7	16	6	17
	Q4	21	19	10	19	7	19	6	18
2004	Q1	18	30	12	24	6	17	5	6
	Q2	22	30	11	23	7	16	5	7
	Q3	20	31	11	15	6	14	5	6
	Q4	21	29	12	31	6	14	5	9
2005	Q1	22	33	13	19	7	16	6	14
	Q2	22	39	12	28	7	6	6	14
	Q3	24	42	12	18	7	16	6	16
	Q4	25	29	12	14	8	21	6	18
2006	Q1	25	44	13	14	8	22	6	17
	Q2	25	41	15	17	8	19	6	13
	Q3	26	57	14	22	7	17	6	11
	Q4	28	45	13	10	9	17	6	10
2007	Q1	26	35	12	18	9	17	6	8
	Q2	25	40	10	24	9	18	6	13
	Q3	29	40	12	22	8	11	7	13
	Q4	27	41	14	27	8	15	7	14
2008	Q1	28	48	12	18	8	14	7	13
	Q2	29	44	11	17	8	14	6	15
	Q3	29	39	11	16	11	18	6	13

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Table 2C: Unemployment rates[1] for women with disablities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
1998	Q2	17	n/a	12	n/a	7	n/a	7	n/a
	Q3	20	n/a	11	n/a	6	n/a	5	n/a
	Q4	17	n/a	10	n/a	8	n/a	6	n/a
1999	Q1	23	n/a	13	n/a	8	n/a	5	n/a
	Q2	18	n/a	9	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a
	Q3	17	n/a	9	n/a	7	n/a	6	n/a

Table 2C: Unemployment rates[1] for women with disablities[2], by age group and ethnicity[3], calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Women with disabilities							
		16 to 24		*25 to 34*		*35 to 49*		*50 to 59-64[4]*	
		All	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*	*All*	*Non-white*
	Q4	17	n/a	12	n/a	8	n/a	5	n/a
2000	Q1	16	n/a	13	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a
	Q2	17	n/a	13	n/a	7	n/a	6	n/a
	Q3	16	n/a	8	n/a	8	n/a	5	n/a
	Q4	14	n/a	7	n/a	6	n/a	6	n/a
2001	Q1	14	n/a	8	n/a	7	n/a	5	n/a
	Q2	15	24	9	23	6	19	4	[5]—
	Q3	14	30	10	26	6	13	5	18
	Q4	13	27	7	12	6	14	4	13
2002	Q1	12	12	9	14	5	9	5	13
	Q2	14	21	9	10	6	5	4	14
	Q3	16	34	6	8	7	15	4	13
	Q4	14	32	6	12	7	20	5	10
2003	Q1	14	37	7	16	7	17	5	13
	Q2	16	19	8	21	5	11	4	21
	Q3	21	27	7	12	5	15	5	16
	Q4	15	30	7	16	6	11	4	11
2004	Q1	13	19	9	17	6	9	3	8
	Q2	16	25	7	10	5	10	4	15
	Q3	17	24	8	16	6	13	3	11
	Q4	15	36	7	13	5	7	4	9
2005	Q1	15	40	8	15	5	11	4	[5]—
	Q2	13	22	9	20	5	9	5	[5]—
	Q3	17	47	10	17	6	15	4	[5]—
	Q4	18	35	8	18	6	15	4	7
2006	Q1	14	11	8	19	7	18	4	[5]—
	Q2	18	22	9	14	7	19	5	8
	Q3	23	26	11	28	7	18	5	8
	Q4	16	31	11	19	7	22	5	9
2007	Q1	17	35	11	19	6	16	5	11
	Q2	19	41	10	30	7	21	5	14
	Q3	20	17	9	11	7	15	5	7
	Q4	15	19	8	16	6	19	4	[5]—
2008	Q1	19	46	9	14	7	17	4	6
	Q2	18	23	9	17	7	10	5	11
	Q3	21	22	9	21	7	12	6	11

n/a = Data not available.

[1] The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population in the individual age group.

[2] Comprises people who have a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they might do, or both.

[3] Comprises people who have a long-term health problem or disability which either substantially limits their day-to-day activities or affects the kind or amount of work they might do, or both, from a non-white ethnic group.

[4] Men aged 50-64 and women aged 50-59.

[5] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

Notes:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

HEALTH

Lyme Disease

8. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department has given to medical practitioners on diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. [243638]

Ann Keen: Guidance on the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease is provided to general practitioners and other clinicians by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and is published on the HPA website

www.hpa.org.uk.

In addition, the HPA's Lyme Disease Reference Unit advises clinicians directly on treatment and patient referral as appropriate, through its nationwide links to experts in infectious diseases, neurology, rheumatology and other specialities.

24. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage faster and better diagnosis of Lyme disease. [243654]

Ann Keen: The Department is fully satisfied that the diagnostic tests for Borrelia burgdorferi that are freely available to NHS clinicians are fully validated and offer the required level of specificity and sensitivity to accurately diagnose Lyme disease and that current guidance for clinicians on the detection and diagnosis of Lyme disease, as published by the Health Protection Agency, is entirely appropriate.

The Health Protection Agency's Lyme disease reference laboratory has been at the forefront of close international collaboration to improve diagnostic tests and to promote evidence based treatments.

GP-led Health Centres

9. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the first new GP-led health centre to open; and if he will make a statement. [243639]

Alan Johnson: I opened the first GP-led health centre on 28 November in Bradford. The second was opened by my hon. Friend the Minister of State (Phil Hope) in Corby on 9 December.

150 further such centres will provide GP services for any member of the public, regardless of where they are registered, from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year, improving access and choice for all.

17. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the first GP-led health centre to open. [243647]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Health opened the first fully operational GP-led health centre on 28 November in Bradford.

Nottinghamshire primary care trust plans to open its new GP-led health centre in Sutton-in-Ashfield in April 2009.

Polyclinics

12. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects of polyclinics on existing GP practices. [243642]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have no plans to introduce polyclinics in England. "Polyclinics" is a term that the NHS in London is using to describe ways of bringing existing GP services together with other services in convenient community-based settings.

In other parts of the country—including the hon. Member's own constituency—the NHS is establishing GP-led health centres, to provide more choice and convenience for patients in how they access NHS services.

15. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce polyclinics in *(a)* England and *(b)* Croydon. [243645]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have no plans to introduce polyclinics. "Polyclinics" is a term that the NHS in London is using to describe ways of bringing existing GP services together with other services, in convenient, community-based settings. Every PCT in England is procuring a GP-led health centre.

Croydon plans to establish its new GP-led health centre in central Croydon as part of its redesign of primary care networks.

Resource Allocation

13. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the allocation of resources to those areas with the greatest health need; and if he will make a statement. [243643]

Mr. Bradshaw: The new funding formula announced last week includes a separate health inequalities formula, that directs resources to the places with greatest need. My hon. Friend's local NHS benefits from the new formula and will receive an 11.7 per cent. increase in funding over the next two years.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to the resource allocation review; and if he will make a statement. [243640]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recommendations of the advisory committee on resource allocation informed the new funding formula announced on 8 December that the hon. Member's local NHS—South East Essex—benefits from the new formula and will receive an 11.3 per cent. increase in funding over the next two years.

Mental Health and Criminal Justice

14. **Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on services for people in the criminal justice system with mental health conditions; and if he will make a statement. [243644]

Phil Hope: Some primary care trusts have agreed schemes that are designed to avoid unnecessary referrals to hospital and promote more clinically appropriate alternatives. It is for primary care trusts to evaluate the effectiveness of these schemes. The Department has made clear to the national health service that any such schemes must promote the most clinically appropriate care for patients.

Hospital Referrals

16. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of incentives offered by primary care trusts to GPs for reducing numbers of referrals for hospital appointments on referral rates and the welfare of patients. [243646]

Mr. Bradshaw: Some primary care trusts (PCTs) have agreed schemes that are designed to avoid unnecessary referrals to hospital and promote more clinically appropriate alternatives. It is for primary care trusts to evaluate the effectiveness of these schemes. The Department of Health has made clear to the NHS that any such schemes must promote the most clinically appropriate care for patients.

Hospital Debt

18. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of options to address the problem of historic debt accrued by NHS hospitals. [243648]

Mr. Bradshaw: As a result of introducing a new loans system in 2006-07, there were 17 NHS trusts where the financial challenges were such that they were designated as 'financially challenged'.

By the end of 2007-08, 10 were able to demonstrate the ability to produce sufficient surpluses going forward to an extent that they were no longer deemed 'financially challenged'.

The Department continues to work with the remaining seven to develop solutions.

Non-geographical Telephone Numbers

19. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to discontinue the use of 084 telephone numbers in the NHS. [243649]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are considering discontinuing the use of telephone numbers such as 084 in the NHS, where the cost to the patient of calling those numbers is greater than the cost of a local rate call. We therefore launched a public consultation today on this issue, which is due to run until 31 March 2009, and which will inform the Government's decision on the future use of such numbers in the NHS.

Dispensing Services

20. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the future of dispensing services operated by GPs. [243650]

Phil Hope: Following the publication of the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future" in April 2008, we have received a large amount of correspondence from dispensing practices, their patients and the public.

We have also received several tens of thousands of responses to the consultation, "Pharmacy in England - Building on strengths, delivering the future - Proposals for legislative change" which was published on 27 August 2008 and closed on 20 November 2008.

We recognise the concerns that are being expressed by dispensing doctors, their staff and patients. We will make our decision as quickly as possible, following full consideration of the responses received.

Hospital Car Parks

21. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what income was generated in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area by charging for hospital car parking in the last year for which figures are available. [243651]

Phil Hope: Income is reported voluntarily through the annual Estates Related Information Collection (ERIC) for car parking for staff and visitors. In 2007-08, the total income was £939,952. These data are provided by the NHS on a voluntary basis and have not been amended following their collection, nor have they been actively checked by the Department. They therefore cannot be confirmed to be accurate or complete.

Health Care: Disabled People

22. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of health care available in the NHS for those with a disability. [243652]

Phil Hope: The Secretary of State for Health has produced his triennial disability equality report, showing that significant progress has been made towards equality for disabled people in the health and social care sector. The report was published on 1 December 2008 and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Health Outcomes

23. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made towards reducing inequalities in health outcomes. [243653]

Ann Keen: The latest 2005-07 data show a further slight narrowing of the infant mortality gap, no change in the gap in female life expectancy, and a widening gap in male life expectancy compared to 2004-06. In addition, cancer and circulatory disease mortality show a further narrowing of inequalities in absolute terms.

NHS Dentistry

25. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of access to NHS dentistry. [243655]

Ann Keen: 26.9 million people saw an NHS dentist in the 24 months ending June 2008.

The importance of improving access to NHS dental services is reiterated in the 2009-10 Operating Framework published this week. And this is being supported by extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for the current year 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift for 2009-10 announced in this week's framework, which will take the total allocation to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

In addition, last week we announced we have set up a review to advise how we can ensure that everyone who wants to see an NHS dentist can do so.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards the new public service agreement target to reduce drug and alcohol harm, with particular reference to the new national indicator to measure change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions. [240372]

Dawn Primarolo: The aim of the public service agreement indicator relating to the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions is to achieve a lower rate of admission than predicted if current trends continue. For the reduction to be statistically significant, the rate needs to be 1.4 per cent. below the projected level. Data are currently available up to 2006-07. We expect data for 2007-08 and the first period of 2008-09 to become available before the end of March 2009.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the number of alcohol-related *(a)* admissions and *(b)* visits to accident and emergency facilities since the implementation of changes affecting the sale of alcohol contained in the Licensing Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [241289]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table gives the total number of alcohol-related finished admissions and the for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Alcohol-related finished admissions

	Number
2004-05	644,185
2005-06	735,512
2006-07	799,120

Notes:

1. The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions".

Includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Finished admission episodes:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Primary diagnosis:

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

4. Secondary diagnoses:

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

5. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis:

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

The information for alcohol-related attendances at accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally.

Bowel Cancer: Death

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age-standardised mortality rate for bowel cancer was in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [242580]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the age-standardised mortality rate for bowel cancer was in each UK parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (242580)

The table provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death in (a) parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, and (b) the UK from 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Cancer

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's strategy is for tackling cancer; and if he will make a statement; [243181]

(2) what his Department's strategy is for tackling prostate cancer; and if he will make a statement. [243182]

Ann Keen: In December 2007, the Government published the Cancer Reform Strategy, which sets out plans over the next five years to further improve and develop cancer services across England for all people with cancer. The strategy includes measures to improve cancer prevention, raise awareness among health professionals and the public of the signs and symptoms of cancer, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer, ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings, and that patients can access effective new treatments quickly. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The first annual report for the strategy, 'Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future', published on 1 December 2008, shows that good progress is being made. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The strategy and first annual report include action to improve further the outcomes and services for men with prostate cancer, which is being taken forward by the NHS Prostate Cancer Programme, led by the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards.

Cancer: Research

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on cancer research by the National Health Service in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007; [243183]

(2) how much was spent on research into treatments for prostate cancer by the National Health Service in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007; [243163]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of funding dedicated to cancer research by the National Health Service; [243164]

(4) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of funding provided for research into treatments for prostate cancer by the National Health Service; [243165]

(5) what plans he has for future levels of funding to the National Health Service for cancer research. [243166]

Ann Keen: The Department's cancer research expenditure and the information available in respect of expenditure on prostate cancer research is shown in the following table.

£ million

	All cancer research	*Prostate cancer research*
2001-02	113	2.4
2002-03	124	3.3
2003-04	140	4.6
2004-05	150	4.6
2005-06	168	4.91
2006-07	161	4.61
2007-08	159	Not available

Notes:
1. Includes some estimated spend figures.

The figures for prostate cancer relate to national research programmes. They do not include expenditure on prostate cancer research from the research and development allocations made over the period concerned to national health service organisations. That information is not held centrally.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the other main agency through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. It funds a large portfolio of cancer research. Since 2001, the major funders of cancer research in the UK, including the Department and the MRC, have worked in partnership to streamline cancer research in the UK for the benefit of cancer patients. This partnership, the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), has the role of maintaining strategic oversight of cancer research in the UK, identifying gaps and opportunities, and co-ordinating the funding activities of the partner organisations.

The NHS Prostate Cancer Programme published in September 2000 confirmed a substantial increase in Departmental funding for directly commissioned prostate cancer research. The annual levels of funding subsequently achieved represent a twenty-fold increase since 1999-2000. At the same time, a small number of centres of research excellence were established specifically to address the lack of critical mass in prostate cancer research. The work of these NCRI prostate cancer collaboratives is kept under regular review.

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the MRC is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on cancer research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which charities his Department has provided funding of more than £100,000 in each of the last three years; and how much was provided to each. [242426]

Phil Hope: Information on all departmental funding to charities is not available in the format requested from central records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information is available on funding through the Department's two main grant funding schemes for charities: Section 64 General Scheme of Grants and Opportunities for Volunteering, as well as a one-off scheme for funding to hospices. The following table shows grant awards of more than £100,000 per year through these schemes for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. This list is compiled from local records and is not exhaustive.

Funding over £100,000 per year through Section 64 and OFV 2006-07 to 2008-09

Organisation name	*Type of grant/project name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Action on Elder Abuse (AEA)	Section 64 Core funding	—	120,000	120,000
Acorn's Children's Hospice - Selly Oak	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	344,240	305,269	327,994
Acorn's Children's Hospice - Walsall	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	349,590	310,619	333,344
Acorn's Children's Hospice Trust - Worcester	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	335,240	300,000	320,400
Action on Smoking and Health	Section 64 Project: "Smoking Kills": the Next Steps	185,400	191,000	—
Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)	Section 64 Project: Capitalising on smokefree: the way forward	—	—	142,000
Age Concern England	Section 64 Project: Advocacy for Older People	58,003	140,000	217,580
Age Concern England	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	971,000	971,000	976,000
Alcohol Concern	Section 64: Capital: Purchase of premises	215,000	—	—
Alcohol Concern	Section 64 Core funding	440,000	400,000	400,000
Arthur Rank House	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	230,840	—
Ashgate Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	171,470	—
Attend	Section 64 Project: Accredited Training for Volunteer Programme Managers	150,228	153,400	155,000
Attend	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	539,000	540,200	543,000
Barnardos	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	194,500	194,500	196,000
Barnsley Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	607,900	—
Bassac	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	255,500	261,500	264,000

Funding over £100,000 per year through Section 64 and OFV 2006-07 to 2008-09

Organisation name	*Type of grant/project name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
BIBIC	Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grant	0	750,000	0
Blackpool Tiggers/My Town Tiggers	Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grant	0	58,700	25,000
Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	155,900	155,900	155,900
Bolton Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
Brian House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	185,000	185,000	185,000
British Lung Foundation (BLF)	Section 64 Core funding	—	166,000	166,000
Bury Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	312,385	—
Butterwick Hospice (Stockton-on-Tees)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	274,730	—
Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	182,585	—
Butterwick House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	175,000	175,000	175,000
Cancer Research UK	Section 64 Project: SunSmart	150,000	104,000	110,000
Carers UK	Section 64 Core funding	195,000	125,000	125,000
Chase Hospice Care for Children	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	378,214	329,243	357,793
Chestnut Tree House	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	206,637	206,637	206,637
Child Migrants Trust	Section 64 Project: Family tracing & reunion service and post reunion support	—	220,000	250,000
Children's Hospice South West	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	327,000	300,000	315,725
Children's Hospice South West (Charlton Farm)	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	0	257,000	257,000
Churches Together in England	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	243,000	243,000	245,000
Claire House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	324,614	300,000	314,575
Compton Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	154,125	—
Cope Children's Trust trading as Rainbows Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	295,298	295,298	295,298
Core Arts	Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grant	0	400,000	0
Cotswold Care Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	600,000	—
Crisis	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	141,000	141,000	143,000
CSV	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	243,000	243,600	246,000
Delivering Connected Care in Hartlepool	Social Enterprise Unit Pathfinder Grant	0	152,305	0
Demelza James - East Sussex	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	101,748	101,748	101,748
Demelza James Hospice at Home - Sittingbourne	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	498,956	399,690	457,390
Derian House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	162,000	162,000	162,000
Disability Stockport	Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grant	0	481,660	0
Disabled Living Foundation (DLF)	Section 64 Core funding	100,000	100,000	100,000
Disabled Living Foundation (on behalf of the AT Alliance - DLF; RICAbility; Assist UK; FAST)	Section 64 Project: AT Information Network for the Future	—	—	100,000
Dorothy House Hospice Care	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	165,750	—
Douglas Macmillan Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
Dove House Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	293,200	—
Dr Kershaw's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	125,000	—
DrugScope	Section 64 Core funding	300,000	230,000	230,000
East Anglia's Children's Hospices - (EACH) Ipswich	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	214,512	214,512	214,512
East Anglia's Children's Hospices - (EACH) Milton	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	262,599	262,599	262,599
East Anglia's Children's Hospices - (EACH) Quidenham	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	236,603	236,603	236,603
East Cheshire Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
East Lancashire Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	111,745	—
Eden Valley Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	139,815	—
Ellenor Foundation (Dartford)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	144,370	—
Ellenor Shining Lights	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	140,000	140,000	140,000
Fair Havens Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	174,805	—
Family Planning Association	Section 64 Core funding	140,000	130,000	130,000
Francis House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	350,000	311,029	333,754
Garden House Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
Greenwich & Bexley Cottage Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	416,445	—
Grove House	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	160,950	—
Haemophilia Society, The	Section 64 Core funding	100,000	—	—
Halton Haven	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	193,000	—
Harlington Hospice Association	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	492,700	—
Haven House Foundation	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	200,000	200,000	200,000
Headway - the brain injury association	Section 64 Project: Increasing Participation and Access - Headway Link Project	106,020	108,631	55,184
Heart of Kent Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	286,000	—

Funding over £100,000 per year through Section 64 and OFV 2006-07 to 2008-09

Organisation name	*Type of grant/project name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Helen and Douglas House	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	250,000	250,000	250,000
High Peak Hospicecare (Blythe House)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	182,700	—
Hope House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	297,330	297,330	297,330
Hospice in the Weald	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
Hospice of St Francis	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	135,000	—
Hospiscare - Exeter	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	698,145	—
Isabel Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	166,415	—
Isabel Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	182,600	—
John Taylor Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	113,520	—
John Taylor Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	304,000	—
Joseph Weld Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	153,200	—
Katharine House Hospice (Banbury)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	490,000	—
Kirkwood Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	123,550	—
Lindsey Lodge Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	168,765	—
Ling Trust	Section 64 Project: The Easy Read Project	—	—	105,000
Lions Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	276,210	—
Little Haven's Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	325,149	300,000	314,575
Lorica Learning Disabilities	Social Enterprise Unit Pathfinder Grant	0	103,000	0
LOROS Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Programme grant	—	500,000	—
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	10,000,000	4,000,000
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	110,700	—
Marie Curie Cancer Care	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
Martin House	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	248,000	248,000	248,000
Martlets Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	345,425	—
Meadow House Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	246,835	—
MENCAP	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	359,000	359,000	362,000
Mencap (Royal Mencap Society)	Section 64 Core funding	110,000	110,000	110,000
Mildmay Mission Hospital	Section 64 Core funding	140,000	—	—
Mind	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	485,000	485,000	488,000
Myton Hamlet Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	310,000	—
NACRO	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	374,000	378,000	380,000
National AIDS Trust	Section 64 Core funding	120,000	110,000	110,000
National Association of Adult Placement Services	Section 64 Project: The development and dissemination of the Homeshare model through local authorities in England	127,410	131,690	—
National Heart Forum	Section 64 Core funding	280,000	315,000	315,000
North Devon Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	490,330	—
North London Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	235,675	—
Nottinghamshire Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	253,650	—
Oakhaven Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
Olive Branch NHSD Ltd./CALEB	Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grant	0	1,150,000	0
Overgate Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	195,000	—
Pasque Charity, Keech Cottage	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	265,608	265,608	265,608
Pasque Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
Peace Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	216,650	—
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	262,025	—
Primrose Hospice & Cancer Help Centre	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	141,230	—
Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health, The	Programme grant	300,000	300,000	—
Prince of Wales Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	298,175	—
Prospect Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	340,000	—
RADAR	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	301,000	301,600	303,000
Rape Crisis (paid via fund administered by Govt Equalities Office)	Programme grant	—	300,000	—
Renewing DCP's vision	Social Enterprise Unit Pathfinder Grant	0	445,814	0
Richard House Children's Hospice Trust	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	321,527	300,000	312,825
RNIB	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	126,400	126,700	128,000
Rowcroft - Torbay & S Devon Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
SCA Healthcare	Social Enterprise Unit Pathfinder Grant	0	811,600	0
Scope	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	141,000	141,000	143,000
Severn Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	140,450	—
Shakespeare Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	702,335	—
Shaping Our Lives: The National User Network (SOL)	Section 64 Project: Developing Diversity in Involvement: Getting beyond 'the usual suspects'	148,654	149,464	—
Shooting Star House Children's Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	213,237	213,237	213,237

Funding over £100,000 per year through Section 64 and OFV 2006-07 to 2008-09

Organisation name	*Type of grant/project name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Springhill Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	423,225	—
St. Andrew's Hospice (Grimsby)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	144,670	—
St. Ann's Hospice (Cheadle)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	153,720	—
St. Ann's Hospice (Worsley)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	165,860	—
St. Barnabas Hospice (Lincoln)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	400,000	—
St. Barnabas Hospice (Worthing)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	446,000	—
St. Catherine's Hospice (Preston)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	650,000	—
St. Catherine's Specialist Palliative Centre (Crawley)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	183,560	—
St. Christopher's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	408,820	—
St. Clare Hospice (Harlow)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	155,100	—
St. Clare's Hospice (Jarrow)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
St. Cuthbert's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	418,820	—
St.. Elizabeth Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	297,575	—
St. Francis Hospice (Romford)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	601,290	—
St. Gemma's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	406,600	—
St. Giles Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
St. Helena Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	337,650	—
St. John's Hospice (Lancaster)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	104,800	—
St. John's Hospice (London)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
St. John's Hospice (Wirral)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	358,420	—
St. Joseph's Hospice (London)	Dignity in Care for [illegible]r People programme	—	564,400	—
St. Joseph's Hospice Association	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	310,000	—
St. Leonard's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
St Luke's Hospice (Cheshire)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	110,950	—
St Luke's Hospice (Plymouth)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	379,855	—
St Luke's Hospice (Sheffield)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	723,220	—
St Margaret's Hospice (Yeovil)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	180,000	—
St Margaret's Somerset Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	282,300	—
St Margaret's Somerset Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	250,000	—
St Mary's Hospice (Selly Park)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	300,000	—
St Mary's Hospice (Ulverston)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	202,000	—
St Mary's Hospice (Ulverston)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	300,000	—
St Michael's Hospice (Hastings)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	203,750	—
St Michael's Hospice (Hereford)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	266,740	—
St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	505,750	—
St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	130,000	—
St Nicholas' Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	221,900	—
St Oswald's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	498,455	—
St Peter & St James Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	278,950	—
St Peter's Hospice (Bristol - Brentry)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	120,000	—
St Peter's Hospice (Knowle- Bristol)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	185,000	—
St Raphael's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	184,340	—
St Rocco's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	616,650	—
St Teresa's Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	515,000	—
St Wilfrid's Hospice (Chichester)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	424,600	—
St. Andrews Hospice	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	245,000	245,000	245,000
St. Oswalds Hospice Limited	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	195,000	195,000	195,000
Starthere	Section 64 Project: Localised Countryside Database	100,000	—	—
Step by Step Living Network (SBS)	Section 64 Project: Self-Direction Support Brokerage	—	100,000	100,000
Sue Ryder Care - Henley	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	383,600	—
Sue Ryder Care – St. John's	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	138,000	—
Sue Ryder Care (Cheltenham)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	400,000	—
Sue Ryder Specialist Palliative Care Centre (Peterborough)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	400,000	—
Tapping House Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
TB Alert	Section 64 Project: National support for commissioned TB services and tools for TB Awareness Raising at Local Level	—	226,958	43,042
Teesside Hospice Care Foundation	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	380,000	—
Templehead (was Rehab Suffolk)	Section 64 Project: Temple-Head- Eastern region project- new core	—	100,000	100,000
Terrence Higgins Trust	Section 64 Core funding	210,000	220,000	220,000
The Children's Society	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	214,000	214,000	215,000
The Donna Louise Trust	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	233,834	233,834	233,834
The Rowans Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	103,410	—

Funding over £100,000 per year through Section 64 and OFV 2006-07 to 2008-09

Organisation name	*Type of grant/project name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
The Rowans Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	130,950	—
Trinity - the Hospice in the Fylde	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	240,000	—
Trinity Hospice (London)	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
UK Council on Deafness	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	155,600	157,000	158,000
Volunteering England	Section 64 Project: Enhancing volunteering in health and social care policy and practice	92,841	128,298	141,726
Volunteering England	Opportunities for Volunteering grant	1,941,000	1,941,000	1,956,000
Wakefield Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	576,915	—
Wessex Children's Hospice Trust - Naomi House	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	330,000	300,000	317,475
Wigan and Leigh Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	205,500	—
Willowbrook Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	604,000	—
Woking Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	277,670	—
Woodlands Hospice	Dignity in Care for Older People programme	—	500,000	—
Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, Liverpool	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	200,000	175,000	175,000
Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, Middlesbrough	Children's Hospice & Children at Home Grant	200,000	195,000	195,000

Community Hospitals

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to build new community hospitals in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the next five years. [243864]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Under the South Midlands Local Improvement Finance Trust project, Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) is working up proposals for a new Corby community hospital, to replace the Willowbrook health complex. The PCT also has plans, at the early stage of development, for a new community hospital in Isebrook, Wellingborough. Specific dates have not been set, however it is in the financial plan within the next five years.

In the rest of England we have awarded up to £250 million capital from the community hospitals and services programme to 28 schemes. We are currently giving consideration to the Department's capital programme budgets and we will take into account additional schemes that might receive funding.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act had been held in police custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [241324]

Phil Hope: Comprehensive national information on the number of people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 is not available. Research by the Independent Complaints Commission estimated that a total of 11,517 people were detained in police stations in England and Wales under section 136 in 2005-06. In the same year, statistics published by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care record 5,495 detentions under section 136 in hospitals in England and statistics published by the National Assembly for Wales record a further 263 people detained in mental health facilities in Wales.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of the documents rediscovered by his Department in 2007 relating to the safety of blood products have been *(a)* publicly released and *(b)* released to the Archer inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [240430]

Dawn Primarolo: Some 4,500 documents were discovered in unregistered files. With the exception of a small number withheld under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act, these documents were issued to Lord Archer's inquiry between June-October 2007 and then placed on the Department's website.

In total 18 documents were withheld entirely, and 17 documents partly withheld, under the following exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act:

Exemption	*Document withheld*	*Part of document withheld*	*Total documents wholly or partly withheld*
Section 38—Health and Safety	1	9	10
Section 40—Personal information	3	6	9
Section 42—Legal professional privilege	8	1	9
Section 43—Commercial interests	6	1	7
Total	18	17	35

Dementia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with dementia were recorded on dementia registers by GPs as part of the dementia indicator quality outcome framework. [241056]

Phil Hope: For 2007-08 there were 220,246 people with dementia recorded on dementia registers by general practitioners as part of the dementia indicator in the quality outcomes framework.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with *(a)* dementia and *(b)* cancer in England; and how much his Department spent on medical research on (i) cancer and (ii) dementia in 2007-08. [241057]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not currently collect information on the number of people with dementia. However, the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society, estimated that there were 683,997 people in the United Kingdom with dementia.

Information about prevalence of cancer was published for the first time in July 2008 by the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN). This shows that there are currently approximately 1.6 million people in England who have been diagnosed with cancer, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer.

The information requested in respect of research expenditure is shown in the following table.

2007-08 Expenditure

£ million

	Department	*Medical Research Council*
Cancer research	158.7	89.5
Dementia research	22.21	10.22

Notes:

1. National health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research and comparable expenditure from National Institute for Health Research funding streams (including the cost of the dementias and neurodegenerative diseases research network).
2. Includes spend on some projects not previously included in annual totals.

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to assist those with childhood diabetes to cope with the condition. [243080]

Ann Keen: Our document "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", published in April 2007, drew attention to differences in the management of diabetes in children and young people—which is complex and significantly different from adult care. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

It stated that all children and young people with diabetes should have access to a Children and Young Person Specialist Diabetes (CYPSD) team with appropriate training and competencies; routine care, continuing care and annual assessment; and access to routine and integrated psychological support.

A Children and Young People Diabetes Implementation Support Group has been set up to take forward work on the report's recommendations. The group is chaired by the National Clinical Director for Children, Dr Sheila Shribman, and includes representation from Diabetes UK, Royal Colleges, young people with diabetes, parents and representatives from organisations with an interest in this area, including the Healthcare Commission.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children of school age have been diagnosed with diabetes; [243011]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on improving the provision of healthcare in schools for children with diabetes. [243050]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

In 2005, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), in close liaison with the Department, issued guidance on Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings. This guidance explains the roles and responsibilities of employers, parents and carers, governing bodies, head teachers, teachers and other staff, and of local health services. This includes the effective management of long term conditions, like diabetes, while attending school.

We shall, of course, work closely with DCSF on any future revision of the guidance.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of all drug misuse deaths in England occurred in London in the latest period for which figures are available. [240588]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of all drug misuse deaths in England occurred in London in the latest period for which figures are available. (240588)

The proportion of all deaths in England that were to residents of London government office region[1], for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning[2] where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate, was 14 per cent in 2007[3] (the latest year available).

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-10 codes are shown in the following table) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

ICD-10	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Drugs: Prisons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many prisons the Integrated Drug Treatment System has been introduced. [240711]

Phil Hope: In November 2008, 50 of the 53 first and second waves of Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) prisons were assessed as having an operational service providing all key elements of IDTS clinical services.

Of the 53 first and second waves of IDTS prisons 29 have received additional National Offender Management Service funding for enhanced Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice, Throughcare service (CARATs) resources and are considered 'fully funded' sites. All 29 of these prisons are providing an enhanced CARAT service.

A further 38 sites ('the third wave') have received Departmental funding in 2008-09 to implement clinical elements of IDTS.

Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times his Department has consulted *(a)* formally and *(b)* informally on end-of-life decision-making since June 2008; which stakeholders have made representations to his Department on such matters during this period; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such representation; and if he will make a statement. [242688]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has conducted no consultation on end of life decision making since June 2008 and has had 124 letters and emails from professionals, the public and organisations since June 2008 on end-of-life issues expressing a wide range of views and opinions.

Exercise: Health Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the "Let's Get Moving" resource pack has been provided to all GP surgeries in England. [240369]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has developed a resource pack called 'Let's Get Moving: Your complete guide to becoming more active' to support the primary care physical activity care pathway intervention (PACP), which aims to get sedentary people more active. The "Let's Get Moving" resource has recently undergone intensive user testing with target groups and is being used in a London pilot of the PACP.

Primary care trusts throughout England will be encouraged to deliver the PACP from spring 2009, at which stage copies of the resource will be made available to participating general practitioner surgeries along with other measures to support the aims of the intervention.

Health Hazards: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received of research into the potential harmful effects associated with genetically modified maize and soya varieties approved for food and feeds use in the EU; and if he will support a tightening of the regulatory and approvals regime for such varieties. [242649]

Dawn Primarolo: New research is regularly published in the field of genetically modified organisms and we are aware of a number of recent studies concerning authorised genetically modified maize and soya varieties which could have a bearing on the safety of these products. These reports will be scrutinised by the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, and or by the European Food Safety Authority, in order to assess their significance for the safe use of these genetically modified (GM) materials in food and feed.

The safety of new GM materials is rigorously assessed by the European Food Safety Authority before they are cleared for use in food or feed and the current system provides adequate assurances that authorised materials are as safe as their conventional counterparts.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide resources for reporting bodies and advising committees on genetically-modified organisms to sponsor independent feeding trials to establish the safety or otherwise of genetically modified (GM) food and feed varieties prior to the authorisation process; and if he will support measures to oblige GM seed growers to provide reference materials for such trials. [242651]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of the applicants to provide all the information that is needed to support the assessment of their products. It would not be appropriate for public funds to be spent on research into individual genetically modified crops in order to allow the pre-market risk assessment to proceed.

Health Visitors: Children

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many home visits on average a child considered to be at *(a)* low risk and *(b)* high risk received from an allocated health visitor in the first two years following assessment in each region in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241899]

(2) how many home visits on average a child considered to be at *(a)* low risk and *(b)* high risk received from an allocated health visitor in the first two years following assessment in each region between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [241900]

(3) what the average number of cases allocated to health visitors was in each region between 9 September 2008 and the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [241914]

(4) what the average number of cases allocated to health visitors in each region was in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [241915]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the updated Child Health Promotion Programme, launched on 17 March 2008, identifies health visitors as the lead practitioners in promoting the health of children below the age of five, it is for local national health service and local authority commissioners to commission children's services according to local needs.

Heroin: Prescriptions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many drug addicts are participating in the Maudsley heroin prescribing pilot; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the pilot per addict per year; [243512]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust's pilot on prescribing and injecting heroin. [243518]

Dawn Primarolo: An evaluation of the effectiveness of these pilots will be conducted in 2009, when they are completed. The Government will use evidence from these pilots to inform further consideration of the role that prescribed injectable opiates (heroin and methadone) has in the wider portfolio of treatment options available for drug misusers.

Information and analysis of costs and the numbers involved in the pilots will be available in 2009, after the pilots have been completed and information such as that requested by the hon. Member will be available then.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the individual market forces factors for each hospital trust in England are. [243264]

Mr. Bradshaw: For activity within the scope of Payment by Results, trusts receive the national tariff adjusted by the market forces factor (MFF) payment index.

A copy of the revised MFF index to be applied for the payment of the Payment by Results national tariff in 2009-10 has been placed in the Library. This table lists the MFF payment index values for NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts in England.

The MFF payment index to be applied in 2009-10 is available on the Department's website, as part of the 2009-10 PbR 'road test' package (the table is at Annex F of the draft Guidance) and has also been placed in the Library:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091486

The MFF index applied for 2008-09 Payment by Results activity has been placed in the Library, and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_ 081096

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential on the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008; and if he will make a statement. [242698]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department will be producing three sets of regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") in the next 12 months. These are:

regulations relating to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (HFEA) appeals committee;

regulations setting out the procedure for release of information to researchers from the HFEA register of patient information; and

regulations setting out the circumstances in which the storage period of embryos and gametes can be extended.

The HFEA will also be making regulations setting out the procedures to be followed when the HFEA is minded to refuse, revoke or vary a licence.

In addition, there will be several sets of transitional and commencement orders issued to implement the provisions in the 2008 Act.

There are no plans to issue any departmental circulars.

The Department will be consulting on the regulations to implement the 2008 Act, including the HFEA regulations, in the next 12 months. It is planned that the consultation document will be published in January 2009.

Separately to that, the Department will also be consulting on regulations to update the parental order regulations later in the year. It is planned that a consultation paper will be published to support this in the summer.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the Government's response to the latest consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [244326]

Phil Hope: The outcome of the last consultation on the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care will be published early in the new year.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to promote availability of the influenza vaccination. [243079]

Dawn Primarolo: In October and November 2008 the Department ran its annual autumn communications campaign targeting those aged 65 and over and those people under 65 who are in a clinical risk group. The campaign consisted of television, radio, online and pharmacy bag advertising, and public relations activity. Leaflets and posters have been made freely available to the national health service to use in their own local promotional activities. The objectives of the campaign were to raise awareness of the need for the vaccination among the target audiences, and to encourage them to contact their general practitioner.

Lung Diseases

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps is his Department is taking to increase *(a)* awareness and *(b)* the rate of diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among people who are unaware they have the disease. [242763]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing a national strategy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). One of the specific aims of the strategy will be to increase awareness of good lung health among the general population, and COPD for those at risk. The strategy will also aim to increase the accurate diagnosis of COPD, especially for those at the milder stage of the disease. We aim to publish the strategy in 2008.

Lung Diseases: Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of *(a)* the adequacy of palliative care and *(b)* access to pulmonary rehabilitation for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [242762]

Ann Keen: According to a recent Royal College of Physicians' report, based on UK audit data, approximately 50 per cent. of acute units have a formal referral pathway to palliative medicine for end of life care for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and 66 per cent. are planning to develop (or further develop) palliative care services in the future.

For pulmonary rehabilitation approximately 70 per cent. of primary care organisations state that they provide community based pulmonary rehabilitation. In secondary care approximately 90 per cent. of acute units provide formal pulmonary rehabilitation programmes.

An End of Life Care Strategy was published in July and its aim is to improve care for people approaching end of life whatever their diagnosis or condition. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The National Strategy for COPD, which will be published early next year, will also aim to improve access to palliative and end of life care for people with COPD. It will also set clear standards for the provision of pulmonary rehabilitation, whatever the setting.

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[1] Report of The National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Audit 2008, UK Primary Care Organisations: Resources and Organisation of Care. Royal College of Physicians of London, British Thoracic Society and British Lung Foundation November 2008

Mental Health Services: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent progress has been made on review of child and adolescent mental health services; and if he will make a statement; [240731]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to improve the emotional health and well-being of children. [241345]

Phil Hope: The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review final report, 'Children and Young People in Mind', was published on 18 November 2008. The report makes 20 recommendations that will enable a number of important changes to take place over the next three to five years, to improve children and young people's mental health and psychological well-being.

The Government have demonstrated their commitment to implementing change by the immediate implementation of a number of these recommendations. In particular:

the establishment of a National Advisory Council, which, in line with the review's recommendations, will act as a champion for children's psychological well-being and mental health issues, advise Government on implementing the recommendations that have been set out in the report and hold Government to account on delivery; and

the development of a National Support Programme, building on the work already being delivered by the National CAMHS Support Service and others to facilitate and support sustainable cultural change at national, regional and local levels. The National Support Programme will co-ordinate these organisations to deliver the same messages on mental health to all of the services supporting children and young people and give everyone working in this area the support they need to achieve the aims of the CAMHS review.

A copy of the review's final report has already been placed in the Library and is also available at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/CAMHSreview

Mental Health Services: Pharmacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to assist pharmacies to provide advice to patients in respect of mental health matters. [240365]

Phil Hope: As indicated in the White Paper 'Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future' educational resources are being developed to support community pharmacies in helping people on mental health matters. These resources are likely to be available by the end of 2009.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Prison Service staff have received mental health awareness training. [240366]

Phil Hope: Between 2006 and 2008, approximately 12,000 front line prison staff received mental health awareness training. The Department no longer collects these figures centrally.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by his Department to improve the health of offenders since the publication of Improving Health, Supporting Justice: A Strategy for Improving Health and Social Care Services for People Subject to the Criminal Justice System. [240710]

Phil Hope: The consultation on the strategy was published on 27 November 2007, and the consultation period finished on 4 March. Responses have been analysed and a written analysis of the consultation responses was published in August 2008. The final strategy will be published in spring 2009 following Lord Bradley's report to Parliament.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of prisoners suffering from serious mental illness; how many of those prisoners are women; and if he will make a statement. [240743]

Phil Hope: No recent assessment has been made. Although there are no officially recognised data on prisoners with severe mental illness, we are aware that there are a number of people in custody suffering from serious mental illness. In 1997, the Office for National Statistics survey indicated that as many as 58 per cent. of male and 75 per cent. of female remand prisoners, and 39 per cent. of male and 62 per cent. of female sentenced prisoners met criteria for a diagnosis of anxiety and/or depression. Rates of psychotic illness were also higher than in the general population.

Accurate identification of people needing mental health treatment and care is important at all stages in the care and offender pathway. This is why all prisoners are screened at reception for risks of mental ill health and previous psychiatric treatment. The Offender Assessment System (OASys) helps to ensure that any person judged to be at risk and/or of needing mental health treatment and care can be identified and referred, where appropriate, to the Mental Health In-Reach Teams.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners suffering from severe psychiatric disorders have been diverted from prison to secure psychiatric settings in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [240746]

Phil Hope: People who are too mentally ill to remain in prison are transferred to NHS Secure Services. In 2007, 28 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 926 from 723.

There has been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer. In the quarter ending June 2007, 43 prisoners were waiting, down from 62 in the same quarter in 2005. At the end of December 2007 there were 40 people waiting for a bed for more than 12 weeks. At the end of March 2008 there were only 24 people waiting.

People eligible to be transferred should be moved out of prison as quickly as possible. We have been working to reduce waiting times for beds and we have introduced tighter monitoring to identify prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period.

The Mentally Ill

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations made in the Social Exclusion Unit's report, Mental Health and Social Exclusion, at *(a)* regional and *(b)* local level. [240715]

Phil Hope: The National Social Inclusion programme (NSIP) was initially established to coordinate the delivery of the Social Exclusion Unit's (SEU) report, "Mental Health and Social Exclusion" and its 27-action points through a cross government national team with far-reaching national and regional partnerships to support its work.

NSIP has configured its work plan in line with national and regional priorities and previous progress made by them is detailed in their first, second and third annual reports, of 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively, which are available from NSIP's website:

http://www.socialinclusion.org.uk/home/index.php.

However, more recently, my right hon. Friend Alan Johnson launched the training package "Open to All" at the Wallace Collection which has been developed to help museums and galleries to be more inclusive for people with mental health problems through arts participation, access to galleries and museums, and employment and volunteering opportunities in the sector.

Further progress on the implementation of the recommendations in 2008 includes, the publication of "Connect and Include—an exploratory study of community development and mental health", which includes a brief review of literature relating to relevant policy and practice, a survey and interviews including community development practitioners, people with experience of mental health problems, and staff from mental health services.

NSIP has also published the review "From segregation to inclusion: Where are we now?" which identifies the modernisation progress to date and highlights common issues, approaches to address them and examples of good practice, and revised the "Really Useful Book of Learning and Earning", 80,000 copies of which have been distributed to care services, Jobcentre Plus, employment programme learning and training providers.

The implementation of the SEU report actions continues through the Community Participation work stream—which concentrates on developing the local level impact of the social inclusion agenda. This work stream contains the areas housing, arts, criminal justice, families and young people, day services and direct payments.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of programmes designed to increase the uptake of direct payments by people with mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [240717]

Phil Hope: Access to direct payments should be available to all people eligible to receive them. There is evidence that the take up of direct payments is also sometimes hindered by a lack of adequate support or information, or unnecessarily complicated processes. Therefore the Department has developed the direct payments uptake project to support local councils and their partners.

According to Commission for Social Care Inspection figures, in March 2006, there were 1,477 people with mental health issues (aged 18-64) receiving direct payments. This rose to 2,085 people in March 2007.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which local authority areas individual budgets for mental health service users have been piloted. [240718]

Phil Hope: The independent individual budget evaluation was designed to examine outcomes for specific groups of service users which include people with mental health problems. 13 local authorities took part in these pilots and of these, five local authorities included mental health service users in their pilots: Barnsley, Coventry, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Oldham, which was exclusively with mental health service users.

The evaluation of the individual budgets pilots found that mental health service users receiving individual budgets reported significantly higher quality of life than those receiving traditional services. A number of these service users had not found the services available under conventional arrangements to their liking, and saw an individual budget as an opportunity to access more appropriate support. Although not significant statistically, the data also suggest some tendency for psychological well-being to be better for those mental health service users receiving an individual budget.

Mentally Ill: Discrimination

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated to SHiFT in each year to 2011. [240713]

Phil Hope: SHIFT is expected to receive around £600,000 for the remaining two years of the programme and has so far received the following funding:

	Funding (£)
2004-05	1,100,000
2005-06	873,000
2006-07	980,000
2007-08	600,000
2008-09	600,000

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made by SHiFT in its work to tackle discrimination in *(a)* employment and *(b)* the media against people with mental health problems. [240714]

Phil Hope: SHIFT was originally launched in 2004 by National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) as a five-year programme but has now been extended to run until 2011 to work alongside "Time to Change", a new £18 million charity sector-led anti-stigma and well-being social marketing campaign. SHIFT's work complements that of "Time to Change" by focusing on two key audiences—employers and the media.

The work in employment is aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of people with mental health problems. For example, SHIFT has distributed to public and private sector employers more than 30,000 copies of the SHIFT Line Managers Resource, giving guidance to managers on handling mental health problems in the workplace.

An independent expert panel, the SHIFT review panel, has been set up to review guidance on mental health and employment and help guide employers through the wealth of existing advice. A website signposts employers to the most appropriate resource. The panel, hosted by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, includes experts from academia, business and the public sector.

The work with the media is aimed at improving media coverage of mental health and in particular challenging the link made between severe mental illness and violence.

Guidance on best practice for reporting mental health has been distributed to more than 10,000 journalists. It focuses on covering violence and suicide.

Training on reporting mental illness and suicide is being delivered to postgraduate students at journalism training colleges and the SHIFT Speakers Bureau, a bank of people willing to talk about their real life experiences of mental illness, has become an essential resource for journalists and a way of ensuring that people's voices are heard.

National Treatment Agency

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the role and purpose is of the National Treatment Agency; [241686]

(2) how many staff were employed at the National Treatment Agency *(a)* when it was first launched and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; [241687]

(3) what the budget was for the National Treatment Agency in *(a)* its first year of operation and *(b)* 2007-08. [241690]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) is a special health authority within the NHS, established by Government in 2001 to improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England.

The NTA has achieved significant improvements in access to services and is now focusing on improving the quality of treatment in order to maximise the benefit to individuals, families and communities. The NTA also plays an important role in advice and guidance on the quality of and, since April 2008, monitoring access to alcohol treatment.

In 2001-02, the NTA's first year of operation, it received a £2.1 million core grant in aid budget (from the Department) and employed an average number of 27[1] staff.

In 2007-08, the NTA received a £11.59 million core grant in aid budget (from the Department) and employed an average of 173 staff.

Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: ICT

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is on schedule to go live with its electronic patient management and care record system. [243190]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand that Newcastle upon Tyne hospitals NHS foundation trust has no reason to believe that it will not go live with its new patient management and care record system next year as planned. The trust is working closely with its commercial partner, and in collaboration with NHS Connecting for Health, to ensure that all project timescales are met.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rights *(a)* foundation trust members and *(b)* members of the public have to attend meetings of (i) boards of directors and (ii) boards of governors of their local foundation trust. [243431]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Service Act 2006 requires that the constitution of a national health service foundation trust must provide for meetings of the board of governors to be to open to the public. There is no equivalent provision for meetings of the board of directors. This would be a matter for each trust. Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) has however issued a Code of Governance for National Health Service foundation trusts which advises directors to follow a policy of openness and transparency in their proceedings and decision making, unless this conflicts with a need to protect the wider interests of the public or the trust, including commercial-in-confidence matters.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on when a complete version of Lorenzo Release 2 will undergo tests in the UK. [243191]

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[1] Note that although the NTA was established in April 2001, staff began to be appointed only from July 2001 onwards.

Mr. Bradshaw: We anticipate that the main build of Lorenzo release 2.0, containing care management functionality, will be available for ongoing testing in the United Kingdom by the end of December 2008.

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many users of the Lorenzo system there are at the *(a)* Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust, *(b)* Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and *(c)* South Birmingham Primary Care Trust; and what the average number of concurrent users of the Lorenzo product was at each of those trusts in the last month for which figures are available. [243193]

Mr. Bradshaw: At Morecambe Bay hospitals NHS trust there is currently limited clinical usage in a single ward, with 10 system users. At South Birmingham primary care trust, the system is being used by the podiatry team, involving 14 users. Bradford teaching hospitals NHS foundation are preparing to go live in the new year and there are therefore no live system users at present.

Information on the number of concurrent users is not held centrally.

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates *(a)* Department of Health officials received a demonstration of the Lorenzo software product and *(b)* local service provider contracts were signed under the National Programme for IT in the NHS for the Lorenzo software product; and what the planned delivery date for the Lorenzo software product was when those contracts were signed. [243434]

Mr. Bradshaw: Lorenzo release 1.0 and components of release 2.0 were first demonstrated to NHS Connecting for Health officials in India during 2007, followed by a number of demonstrations to NHS clinicians, officials and to some Public Accounts Committee members in the UK in 2008. More general demonstrations of the software have been provided since September 2008 to national health service staff.

The original relevant local service provider contracts signed in 2003 did not refer specifically to the Lorenzo product by name but to an integrated care service. A later contract reset on 8 January 2007 covered a two-release strategy for Lorenzo with the following release key milestones:

Lorenzo release 3.5—30 June 2008; and

Lorenzo release 4.0—30 June 2009.

A four-release strategy has now been adopted.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the size of the *(a)* high risk, *(b)* significant risk, *(c)* moderate risk and *(d)* low risk maintenance backlog was in each NHS trust in England in each year since 1997-98; [243834]

(2) what *(a)* plans and *(b)* targets his Department has on reducing the maintenance backlog in the NHS; and how much is planned to be spent on reducing the backlog in the next three years. [243835]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

Levels of backlog maintenance categorised by risk were not collected prior to 2004-05. The information relating to 2004-05 onwards has been placed in the Library.

The Department collects data on backlog maintenance annually from national health service trusts through its estates return information collection (ERIC). These data have not been amended centrally and therefore their accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing NHS organisations.

NHS organisations are locally responsible for the provision and maintenance of their facilities. This includes planning and investment to reduce backlog maintenance.

Obesity

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were for *(a)* paediatric and *(b)* adolescent obesity treatment in (i) England and (ii) each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [241051]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are available between 1997-98 and 2006-07. This information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures to treat obesity were carried out on the NHS in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. [241052]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary diagnosis of obesity as well as a main procedure of bariatric surgery are provided in the following table. Data are available between 1997-98 to 2006-07.

Count of FCEs with a primary diagnosis of obesity and a main procedure of bariatric surgery** broken down by strategic health authority of residence for 1997-98 to 2006-07*

Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Strategic health authority	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
	England Total	1,890	998	711	451	336	279	250	193	187	143
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority	—	30	24	12	9	6	7	2	3	6
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority	—	28	17	9	6	8	7	2	3	2
Q03	Essex Strategic Health Authority	—	11	13	7	5	3	5	4	0	1

Count of FCEs with a primary diagnosis of obesity and a main procedure of bariatric surgery** broken down by strategic health authority of residence for 1997-98 to 2006-07*

		Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector									
	Strategic health authority	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q04	North West London Strategic Health Authority	—	68	44	11	13	5	5	3	1	1
Q05	North Central London Strategic Health Authority	—	29	15	11	5	2	3	5	0	2
Q06	North East London Strategic Health Authority	—	24	9	4	3	1	2	1	1	0
Q07	South East London Strategic Health Authority	—	30	23	18	11	13	18	11	4	3
Q08	South West London Strategic Health Authority	—	33	20	11	11	5	7	7	2	3
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic Health Authority	—	43	28	19	11	9	8	8	9	7
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority	—	17	13	5	5	7	6	3	4	2
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority	—	135	60	37	20	19	8	15	12	4
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority	—	57	51	62	40	38	56	42	30	30
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority	—	11	18	17	11	14	9	14	7	7
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority	—	20	21	15	9	4	9	5	7	6
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority	—	8	33	32	41	36	24	7	17	8
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority	—	12	9	6	9	6	7	4	0	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority	—	2	4	3	0	1	0	3	4	2
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority	—	12	17	5	5	9	4	3	2	2
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority	—	33	20	14	11	13	9	6	5	0
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority	—	57	19	12	1	3	0	3	3	4
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority	—	33	22	12	12	24	7	12	6	5
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic Health Authority	—	31	13	4	3	1	4	2	1	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority	—	107	88	59	40	23	18	15	17	23
Q24	Trent Strategic Health Authority	—	82	41	19	21	14	14	5	7	10
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority	—	19	33	11	8	2	4	0	4	3
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority	—	23	21	18	11	3	3	3	11	3
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority	—	25	20	12	10	7	3	6	25	7
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority	—	8	15	6	3	2	3	2	2	2
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	435	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	205	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	292	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Count of FCEs with a primary diagnosis of obesity and a main procedure of bariatric surgery** broken down by strategic health authority of residence for 1997-98 to 2006-07*

		Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector									
	Strategic health authority	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	138	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	202	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England—not otherwise specified	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Other, foreign and unknown Strategic Health Authorities	12	6	21	29	12	10	8	6	10	7

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

1. A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

**Primary diagnosis*

2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

E66—Obesity.

Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis

3. These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a HES record.

***Main procedure*

4. The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

Data Quality

5. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via ~~HES~~ processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

6. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed Data

7. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)/Strategic Health Authority (SHA) data quality

8. PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The following information needs to be taken into account when interpreting these data.

In 2006-07 there was a SHA configuration change, where 28 SHAs merged into 10. Data for 2006-07 are based on the new configuration.

There is a large increase in episodes between 2005-06 and 2006-07. The Information Centre have studied this and believe it to be due to the change/increase in OPCS-4 coding classifications. In previous years procedures may have been coded under an 'unknown' or 'other' code and therefore would not have been included in the count. However, some extra codes have been introduced in OPCS-4.3 these procedures would now be coded under their named field and be included within the count.

The number of FCEs does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have more than one episode within a year.

The NHS Information Centre have broken down information by SHA only.

Prescriptions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is provided to healthcare professionals to prevent prescribing and dispensing errors in relation to immunosuppressant therapies; [241501]

(2) how many *(a)* prescribing and *(b)* dispensing errors of immunosuppressant therapies have been recorded in each of the last five years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the records; and if he will make a statement. [241550]

Ann Keen: There were 1,015 patient safety incidents relating to prescription, preparation and administration of immunosuppressant medication were submitted to the National Patient Safety Agency's (NPSA) Reporting and Learning System (RLS) between November 2003 and the beginning of December 2008. The search of RLS was structured to include a number of named immunosuppressant medicines.

There were 786 of the incidents submitted and were reported to have resulted in no harm, 180 in low harm, 48 in moderate harm and one in severe harm. The following table provides a breakdown of the reported category of error:

Category of error	*Number of reported errors*
Prescribing	253
Preparation of medicines in all locations/ dispensing in a pharmacy	242
Administration/supply of a medicine from a clinical area	520
Total	1,015

Note:
The following immunosuppressant medicines were included within the incident report: Advagraf, Alemtuzumab, Azathiaprine, Basiliximab, Cellcept, Ciclosporin, Daclizumab, Imuran, Mabcampath, Mabthera, Mycophenolate, Myfortic, Neoral, Prograf, Rapamune, Rituximab, Sandimmun, Simulect, Sirolimus, Tacrolimus, Zenapax.

Prostate Cancer

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prostate cancer patients there were whose cancer went into remission following National Health Service treatment in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007. [243168]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally. However, latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics on 10 December 2008 show that 78 per cent. of men (aged 15-99) diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2000-04 survived five years.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the treatments available to prostate cancer patients on the National Health Service. [243169]

Ann Keen: In February 2008, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. This guideline sets out recommendations on a number of treatment options for prostate cancer.

The guideline can be found on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG58.

Rampton Hospital

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the patient capacity of the National High Secure Healthcare Service for Women at Rampton Hospital is; and how many patients were placed there on the latest date for which figures are available. [241348]

Phil Hope: The current capacity for the National High Secure Service for Women at Rampton Hospital is 50. There were 45 patients in the service on 4 December 2008.

Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will initiate an investigation into Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust's sale of public land and property in Epsom. [244558]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service foundation trusts have the freedom to sell land and buildings subject to provisions in legislation. Therefore, this is a matter for Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Graham Cawsey, Chair of the organisation, informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library. Any concerns thereafter may also be directed to the chair of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts).

Tuberculosis

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce rates of tuberculosis amongst *(a)* the homeless, *(b)* problem drug users and *(c)* prisoners in (i) London and (ii) outside London; and what steps he intends to take over the next three years. [243099]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department launched a national tuberculosis (TB) toolkit in June 2007 to support commissioning of TB services best suited to local needs, and recommended that TB services follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines on tuberculosis. The NICE guidelines make specific recommendations about active screening for TB among homeless people and prisoners and to ensure that people working with these groups have high awareness of the risk and symptoms of TB.

London TB services are funded by the Department to run a pilot study using a mobile X-ray unit (MXU) to screen homeless hostels and prisons. Evaluation of the pilot showed the MXU to be an effective case-finding tool among these populations. In addition, since October 2007, the Department has funded Find & Treat, a small multidisciplinary team of tuberculosis nurse specialists, social and outreach workers, to provide practical support and advice to TB services across London for around 300 patients with complex and challenging needs. Support includes: locating and re-engaging patients who have been lost to follow-up care; providing links between prison health and the MXU to NHS tuberculosis services; organising case conferences and directly observed therapy (DOT) partnerships and engaging relevant allied support services in the community to help patients complete treatment.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) runs the National Knowledge Service for TB, which provides information resources including cartoon leaflets for prisoners and material targeted at staff working with the homeless, prisoners and problem drug users. Evaluation shows that these have been well received.

The HPA collects data nationally to monitor rates of tuberculosis among the homeless, prisoners and problem drug users, because it recognises the high rates of disease in these populations.

The HPA is undertaking a programme of research, in collaboration with University College London and the Royal Free NHS Trust, to provide the evidence base for interventions to control TB among the homeless, prisoners and problem drug users.

All these initiatives will inform future policy on tackling TB in these groups.

Unborn Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) earliest stage in its development at which an unborn child can experience pain, (ii) the earliest gestational age at which an unborn child may be born alive, (iii) the number of occasions on which an unborn baby has been diagnosed as being disabled and has subsequently been born without disability and (iv) the suicide rate among women who have had an abortion in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242685]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist's to review its 1997 report on foetal awareness which includes the consideration of all relevant evidence and new research in the area of foetal awareness including foetal pain.

The Department considered all of the scientific and medical evidence on foetal viability submitted to the Science and Technology Committee in their review of scientific developments since the Abortion Act 1967.

The Department also provides funding to national health service organisations to meet the service support costs associated with Medical Research Council (MRC) funded research. The MRC has funded, and continues to fund, studies on embryonic and foetal awareness and foetal development.

We do not collect data on the number of babies diagnosed as being disabled which are subsequently born without disability.

Three women have committed suicide following a termination of pregnancy in the last nine years but there are insufficient details to establish if the termination was the cause of the suicide.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on *(a)* abortion, *(b)* assisted suicide and *(c)* embryonic stem cell research; which organisations and individuals he has consulted on each policy during the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [242686]

(2) if he will make it his policy to oppose *(a)* assisted suicide and *(b)* voluntary euthanasia; and if he will make a statement. [242697]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's policy is governed by:

> the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and
>
> the Suicide Act 1961 (assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia). The Government have no plans to change this legislation. Any proposals to change the law would be dealt with as a matter of conscience.

The Government continue to support ethically approved research using all sources of stem cells, including embryonic stem cells as permitted under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.

No organisations or individuals have been consulted on these policies in the last 12 months.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 184W, on departmental air travel, how many members of his Department have taken advantage of the policy on travelling in a cheaper class and using the difference for additional free personal air travel in the last 12 months. [241681]

Gillian Merron: No central record is kept and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure is monitored locally at each overseas mission and is subject to audit checks.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240984]

Gillian Merron: A substantial programme of work is being implemented following the review carried out by the former Disability Rights Commission (2007). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Diversity Report 2007 (published March 2008) summarised our achievements for disability equality and the targets set for 2008. The next annual report of progress is due for publication March 2009 and we will share the impact of particular policies/services on our disabled customers (including staff) and how we used this to inform and improve outcome for this equality target group.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240471]

Gillian Merron: Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) maintains records of all expenditure on official hospitality by Government Hospitality. Government Hospitality is responsible for the organisation of official ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments and for the management of the Government wine cellar. The FCO does not maintain a central record of other hospitality expenditure, although all staff are bound by official guidance which ensures that the provision of food and beverages at public expense is appropriate and cost-effective.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242103]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain central records of the value or length of individual contracts for temporary employment between its directorates and individual companies. These figures can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Falkland Islands: Air Routes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has received on the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Ministry of Defence. [240778]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence have yet to agree the new Joint Policy Statement on the South Atlantic Airbridge. I have relayed the Falklands Islands Government's suggested alternative pricing arrangements to the Minister for the armed forces. I look forward to resolving this issue so that the negotiations can be concluded.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations were carried out by his Department on the proposed pricing scheme for the Falkland Islands Airbridge under the provisions of the Joint Policy Statement agreed between his Department and the Ministry of Defence; and if he will make a statement. [240779]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence have yet to agree the new Joint Policy Statement on the South Atlantic Airbridge. The FCO has consulted fully with the governments of the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and St. Helena, plus the Department for International Development, as part of these negotiations, and ensure that they have been able to participate in the negotiations.

Forced Marriage

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding has been allocated to public information campaigns to increase awareness about access to assistance for suspected victims of forced marriage in 2008-09. [241225]

Gillian Merron: So far this year the Forced Marriage Unit has either allocated or spent £25,237 on developing awareness raising materials. These include work with the Department for Children, Schools, and Families to develop new materials for schools, development of bilingual posters in Urdu, Bengali, Hindi, Kurdish and Arabic and development of materials for a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender audience.

Our high commission in Islamabad has allocated a further £25,000, including awareness raising at airports and on airlines as well as projects targeting the Mirpur region, where most of our cases originate. Our high commission in Dhaka has also allocated £22,600 for a publicity campaign to raise awareness of forced marriage in Bangladesh.

Ilois: Resettlement

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on meeting the costs of the respondent in the case of R (on the application of Bancoult) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which judgment was given in the House of Lords on 22 October 2008. [242307]

Gillian Merron: The costs of the respondent in the case of R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the House of Lords on which judgment was given on 22 October 2008 have not yet been finalised.

Indian Ocean: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conditions under which the two British members of the crew of the MV Sirius Star are being held; and what assessment he has made of their safety and well-being. [242205]

David Miliband: We are making efforts to secure the release of all the crew members on board the MV Sirius Star. We have close contact with the families of the British captives, James Grady and Peter French, to whom we are providing consular assistance. Our understanding is that the crew onboard the Sirius Star have so far been treated reasonably well.

Israel: Religious Freedom

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the rights of Christians in the Palestinian territories with regard to *(a)* housing, *(b)* employment, *(c)* travel and *(d)* access to their property and lands. [242933]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned about the socio-economic differences between Arab and Christian population groups within the Palestinian territories, particularly with regard to land urban planning, housing infrastructure, economic development and education. We raise these concerns with the Palestinian Authority and will continue to work towards improving conditions for Palestinian minority groups.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the incident on 23 November 2008 during which the Papal Nuncio in Israel, Archbishop Antonio Franco, was banned by Israeli authorities from entering Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [242935]

Bill Rammell: We have not received reports that Papal Nuncio in Israel was banned by Israeli authorities from entering Gaza. However, we are very concerned about the general restrictions Israel has imposed preventing all diplomats, including our own staff, and members of the international community from entering Gaza. We and our international partners are pressing Israel to remove these restrictions.

Pakistan: Prisoners

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were imprisoned in Pakistan during 2006. [241278]

Bill Rammell: The number of British nationals who were imprisoned in Pakistan in 2006 and whose detention was reported to our high commission in Islamabad was 30.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has put in place evacuation plans for the inhabitants of the Pitcairn Islands in the event of a natural disaster. [242824]

Gillian Merron: Every Foreign and Commonwealth Office post is required to have an emergency plan which sets out the procedures to take in case of an emergency. Pitcairn's was updated in May 2008.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the last occasion was on which a representative of his Department met an *(a)* inhabitant and *(b)* official of the Pitcairn Islands. [242825]

Gillian Merron: I met with Leslie Jaques, Pitcairn's Commissioner, during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council which was held in London in October 2008. An officer from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office lives on Pitcairn and officials from the governor's office in Wellington are in daily contact with the Pitcairn community and administrative offices in Auckland.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have migrated to and from the Pitcairn Islands in each of the last five years. [242827]

Gillian Merron: Our records show that two people migrated to Pitcairn in 2004, two people in 2005, one person in 2006, and four people in 2007. No people have officially migrated from the island in the last five years.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote conservation schemes and preserve biodiversity in the Pitcairn Islands; and which endangered bird species inhabit the Islands. [242828]

Gillian Merron: The Government, through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, is currently providing between £97,537 between 2007 and 2010 for a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds-run feasibility study into the eradication of rats from Henderson Island, a world heritage site. The fund has been used in the past for a number of projects including the production of a Management Plan for Henderson Island.

According to the 2008 'Red List' produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, seven species of birds in the Pitcairn group are considered to be vulnerable or endangered. These are the Henderson crake, Henderson fruit-dove, Henderson lorikeet, Henderson petrel, Henderson reed-warbler, Phoenix petrel and Pitcairn reed-warbler.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has made for marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [240855]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not yet started its process of planning arrangements for marking the diamond jubilee in 2012 of Her Majesty The Queen's Accession.

Romania: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the treatment of disabled people in *(a)* Romania and *(b)* the Philippines. [242578]

Caroline Flint: Romania has come a long way in its treatment of disabled children in the 20 years since the fall of Ceausescu. But problems do remain. EU funds are being used to help accelerate reforms. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister launched an initiative with the Romanian Prime Minister a year ago, sharing best practice on treatment of disabled children in Romania. Our embassy in Bucharest is in regular contact with the Romanian authorities and non governmental organisations and takes every opportunity to help raise public awareness of disability issues.

We have not made an assessment of the treatment of disabled people in the Philippines and have no current plans to do so. The Philippine government has declared its commitment to improve the situation of persons with disabilities and declared 2003-12 the Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Legislation exists to protect the rights of people with disabilities and ensure equal opportunities, including the Accessibility Law and the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. However, overall levels of poverty and limited government resources mean that the majority of people with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, lack access to programmes and benefits designed to support them.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much and what proportion of the overall BBC World Service budget was spent on *(a)* Arabic-language services, *(b)* Persian-language services and *(c)* Russian-language services in each of the last five years. [240661]

Caroline Flint: Comparisons are difficult to make over the five year period (please see note 1). Over the last three years there has been a slight decrease in funding for the Russia service, mainly due to the withdrawal of FM partnerships in Russia. Funding has steadily increased on both Persian and Arabic services (for detailed figures please see the following table).

£ million/Percentage

	2004-05[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Russian	5.4	5.3	4.0	4.7	4.3
Proportion of operating grant in aid (percentage)	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.8

£ million/Percentage

	2004-05[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Arabic	15.8	16.0	7.2	7.8	7.7
Arabic TV	0	4.0	9.0	19.0	21.5
Total Arabic	15.8	20.0	16.2	26.8	29.2
Proportion of operating grant in aid (percentage)	8.2	9.6	7.8	12.1	12.5
Persian and Pashto	7.1	6.6	4.8	5.8	5.6
PTV	0	0	0	7.0	15.0
Total Persian and Pashto (£ million)	7.1	6.6	4.8	12.8	20.6
Proportion of operating grant in aid (percentage)	3.7	3.2	2.3	5.8	8.8
Operating grant in aid[2]	194.1	208.1	208.5	215.0	234.0
Additional PTV funding 2007-08	0	0	0	0	7.0

[1] *Basis of accounting*

In 2004-05 and 2005-06 language service budgets included allocations of transmission costs, studio and studio manager usage, accommodation costs and IT support. In 2006-07, these costs were centralised and excluded from language service costs in order to simplify accounting procedures.

Consequently the figures are not directly comparable between 2006-09 and prior years.

[2] *Note 2006-07—change in arrangements for BBC Monitoring*

2005/06 b/fwd: £208.1 million

SR2004 increase: £6.5 million

Transfer to Cabinet Office re BBCM: £-6.1 million

Adjusted 2006/07: £208.5 million

Thailand: Politics and Government

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Thailand. [242869]

Bill Rammell: The political situation in Thailand remains uncertain. The Thai Constitutional Court ruled on 2 December to dissolve three government coalition parties, including the People's Power party, and banned executive members of the parties, including Prime Minister Somchai, from politics for five years. Efforts to form a new coalition government are continuing. We cannot rule out the possibility of further demonstrations and violent unrest. We continue to urge all parties to resolve their differences peacefully, respecting the rule of law and Thailand's democratic institutions.

Tibet

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors have influenced the formulation of the Government's policy on the status of Tibet in the last two years. [242714]

Bill Rammell: The UK's policy in Tibet in the last two years has been based on one factor: our concern for the human rights situation in Tibet. We believe that the current situation there does not respect fully Tibetans' distinct culture, religion and languages. We believe that this can best be addressed through a meaningful system of autonomy, achieved [illegible] dialogue between the Chinese authorities and [illegible] of the Dalai Lama. Our concern for the human rights situation in Tibet is part of our broader policy of promoting respect for human rights globally.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy on the status of Tibet is; and for what reasons that policy was recently changed. [243008]

Bill Rammell: The Government's policy on the status of Tibet is set out in the written ministerial statement on Tibet of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS: that we do not support Tibetan independence. Like every other EU member state, and the United States, we regard Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China. We have consistently made clear that we want to see the human rights of the Tibetan people respected, including through respect for their distinct culture, language and religions. We consider the position the Dalai Lama has stated publicly, that he opposes violence and is seeking meaningful autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution, provides a basis for a negotiated settlement.

We clarified our position in this way because our ability to get our points across on Tibet had sometimes been clouded by the position the UK took at the start of the 20th century on the status of Tibet. This had developed from the outdated concept of suzerainty. Our position as set out on 29 October allows us to speak unambiguously on the matter of Tibetan human rights.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes in the Government's policy on the status of Tibet were contained in the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, on Tibet. [243361]

Bill Rammell: The written ministerial statement on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, formally updated the UK's position on Tibet. It made clear that like every other EU member state, and the United States, we regard Tibet to be a part of the People's Republic of China. This is different from our earlier position, which spoke of the 'special position' of the Chinese authorities in Tibet, and was based on the historical concept of suzerainty. We have made clear our view that the position the Dalai Lama has stated publicly, that he is seeking meaningful autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution, provides a basis for a negotiated settlement to the problems of Tibet.

UK Trade and Investment: Overseas Workers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are working overseas for UK Trade and Investment; and what estimate he has made of the number in the next financial year. [243029]

Gillian Merron: UK Trade and Investment has 1,294 full-time equivalent staff working overseas. A similar number is expected for the next financial year.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Wood

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will consider withholding planning consent for wood biomass energy plants of 50 megawatts and over except in cases where guarantees to source wood exclusively from overseas are in place. [243369]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No. Previous biomass generating stations consented by the Secretary of State have included conditions covering the sustainability of the fuel to be used rather than its origin. Government also propose to include a sustainability reporting requirement for generators using biomass to generate electricity with a net capacity greater than 50kW, to take effect from 1 April 2009, as part of the reform of the renewables obligation.

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the price per unit of carbon above which energy companies would have sufficient incentive to retrofit power plants with carbon capture and storage technology by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [243539]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Modelling undertaken by DECC suggests that, when commercially available, the incentive required to install CCS, either as retrofit or on new power stations, is a carbon price of €40-60/tCO_2, although there is significant uncertainty surrounding this range. The commercial availability of CCS is not expected to be achieved before 2020 following successful full-scale demonstration.

Retrofitting carbon capture and storage in 2010 or 2015 would mean deploying the technology before it had been demonstrated at full-scale, and therefore the cost and performance of the technology would be uncertain. Moreover, energy companies are likely to require a significant risk premium for investing in unproven technology.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 109W, on departmental buildings, by what date he expects all London staff to be moved into 3 Whitehall Place. [242566]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not yet possible to give a firm date for the completion of the move, but, on the basis of current plans, we expect the bulk of the Department to be in 3 Whitehall Place by spring 2009.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240986]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. The Department's conclusions in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty will be set out in the Department's annual progress report on its Disability Equality Scheme, which will be published in due course.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241950]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department of Energy and Climate Change's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on advertising since its inception. [243896]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None since 3 October 2008.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243351]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 will be provided in the responses to this question from the Departments of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on energy and climate change, for what reason the budget for his Department will not be published before February 2009. [242740]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is currently engaged in discussions with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to agree the finer detail of the policy areas and associated budgets to be transferred to DECC. Discussions are expected to conclude by the beginning of January 2009. A formal transfer of budgets will take place through the spring supplementary estimates in February.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State travelled to Brussels by train on 5 December 2008 to attend the Environment Council. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Reorganisation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects discussions on machinery of government changes with the Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to be completed. [242505]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Negotiations on the machinery of government changes, as they affect the Department of Energy and Climate Change, are continuing. These negotiations should be completed in time to allow the Spring Supplementary Estimates to be completed early in 2009.

District Heating: Whitehall

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the levels of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the operation of the Whitehall District Heating System has been in each of the last five years. [242508]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Response from OGCbuying.solutions:

Calendar year	*Carbon emissions (tonnes carbon)*
2003	1848.545
2004	2451.272
2005	2098.636
2006	3008.454
2007	2425.363

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the output of the Whitehall District Heating System was in each of the last five years. [242510]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

kWh

	Year 1 2003-04	*Year 2 2004-05*	*Year 3 2005-06*	*Year 4 2006-07*	*Year 5 2007-08*
Heat output	24,512,074	32,089,100	33,156,240	27,455,520	27,470,630
Power output	0.00	0.00	11,035,840	4,401,950	4,387,391

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts the Government has entered into relating to the Whitehall District Heating System. [242511]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Contracts regarding the Whitehall District Heating System are commercial in confidence.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of the Whitehall District Heating System has been in each of the last five years. [242512]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows:

£ million

	Year 1 2003-04	*Year 2 2004-05*	*Year 3 2005-06*	*Year 4 2006-07*	*Year 5 2007-08*
Cost of ownership	2.059	2.081	2.037	1.998	2.033

Electricity Generation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions a demand-side response has been required by the system operator to achieve balance in electricity supply in each of the last 10 years. [242503]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Demand control has only been used on one day in the last 10 years by the system operator to achieve balance in the electricity supply. On the 27 May 2008 automatic low frequency demand tripping relays operated disconnecting 546MW of demand following an exceptional loss of generation. Subsequently demand reduction was also instructed to the distribution network operators (DNOs).

Energy Supply

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure timely replacement of ageing *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas transmission and distribution infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [242478]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is the responsibility of National Grid and the gas and electricity distribution network companies to maintain electricity and gas transmission infrastructure, operating under the regulatory framework provided by Government and regulated by Ofgem. Operators face financial incentives, managed by Ofgem, to reduce interruptions to supply over their network, thereby providing a strong incentive to upgrade networks as necessary. Recent price control reviews have taken account of the need for additional investment.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the cost of replacing ageing *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas transmission and distribution infrastructure in each of the next 10 years. [242851]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government do not provide estimates of the cost of replacing electricity and gas transmission and distribution infrastructure. This is a matter for the network owners. The amount of investment in the development and maintenance of electricity and gas networks, however, is the subject of regulation by Ofgem, operating within the regulatory framework set out by Government. Ofgem regulates this investment through its price control reviews.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1474-75W, on renewable energy: finance, what the anticipated end date of the Environment Transformation Fund is. [242619]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No end date has been set for the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). Funding has been provided for the current period 2008-11. Funding allocations beyond this period are subject to review through the spending review process.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate the Government have made of the cost of carbon allowances under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in *(a)* 2012 and *(b)* 2020. [243540]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government use the forward market to estimate the cost of carbon allowances up until 2012, under Phase II of the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS).

The EU ETS post-2012 is being revised as part of the EU Energy and Climate Package.

There is no forward market as yet for Phase III. The UK Government do not comment on prices while negotiations on the package are continuing.

Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Initiative

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the work of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Initiative and its potential to contribute to the targets for carbon dioxide emissions set by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [243004]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Department officials are aware of a number of proposals such as the Mid Atlantic Renewable Energy Initiative (MARE), to use solar and other renewable energy sources, coupled with high voltage DC power networks, to supply renewable electricity. Many of these projects are at a very early stage of development, and their likely scale and potential to contribute to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions cannot yet be reliably determined.

The UK supports Article 5(9) of the draft EU renewable energy directive, which allows renewable energy generated by new installations outside the EU to count towards the EU renewable energy targets if it is consumed within the EU. We also accept that the energy directive should incentivise deployment of renewable technologies outside the EU, as well as inside. Projects such as MARE may be a way of doing this, although issues such as the high cost of developing offshore platforms and long distance sub-sea connections would need to be addressed.

National Grid

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates he has met representatives of National Grid to discuss *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas transmission and distribution infrastructure since his appointment. [242039]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My noble Friend the Secretary of State met with representatives of National Grid on 14 October and 15 December and visited the National Control Centre for electricity on 26 November.

National Nuclear Laboratory

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the National Nuclear Laboratory is in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [242487]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) has been created from the BNFL subsidiary, Nexia Solutions Limited. HMG is currently running a competition to appoint a management contractor to manage the NNL and we expect that process to be completed next spring. Until then the NNL is operating very much as Nexia Solutions did and its results are included in the consolidated accounts of BNFL plc. The NNL is a commercial entity and as such derives revenues from its customers for contracted work. In 2006-07, Nexia Solutions (now the NNL) made an operating profit of £7 million before exceptional items on a turnover of £77 million. Once appointed, the managing contractor is expected to deliver growth and efficiencies, obtaining its fee from turnover with no requirement for separate funding from Government.

Natural Gas

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions a demand-side response has been required by the system operator to achieve balance in gas supply in each of the last 10 years. [242962]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Gas Transmission System Operator, National Grid has not invoked interruption of gas supplies for national gas balancing purposes during the last 10 years.

Natural Gas: Competition

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the June 2006 report of the Competition Commission on the market for domestic bulk liquid petroleum gas. [242490]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) referred the market for the supply of domestic bulk liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to the Competition Commission (CC) on 5 July 2004. Following the report by the CC on 29 June 2006 on this market the CC made the first of two orders to remedy detrimental effects on customers so far as they have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effects on competition specified in the report. From 13 April 2009, the first order will apply to all suppliers of bulk LPG for domestic use. A second order, which will apply to all suppliers of bulk LPG for domestic use on metered estates, is currently the subject of consultation and is expected to be published in early 2009. Once the orders are in place the OFT will monitor their effect.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and *(b)* EDF on (i) the timing of the NDA's announcement of the sale of NDA land for new nuclear builds and (ii) the likely effect of this sale and its timing on the price of (A) the Government's stake in British Energy and (B) shares in British Energy. [243588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has had discussions both with the NDA, in line with our governance role, and EDF in connection with the sale of NDA and EDF land adjacent to existing NDA sites.

The Government have committed to accept EDF's cash offer of 774p per share for its stake in British Energy, which puts the value of the stake at £4.4 billion, assuming the offer completes. The Government cannot speculate on any impact the sale of the NDA's sites might have on British Energy's share price, which is subject to market conditions.

Renewable Energy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to promote renewable energy in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [242370]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government published in the summer a consultation document (UK Renewable Energy Strategy) setting out the wide range of policies already in place to promote renewable energy in the UK, and seeking views on potential further measures in the light of our longer term renewable ambitions. We will publish our final renewable energy strategy in spring next year, detailing an action plan for promoting further renewable deployment throughout the UK.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of UK electricity supply came from renewable sources in each year since 1990. [242479]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The proportion of electricity generated in the UK in each year since 1990 that came from renewable sources is as follows:

	Percentage
1990	1.84
1991	1.67
1992	2.03
1993	1.82
1994	2.25
1995	2.18
1996	1.74
1997	2.12
1998	2.55
1999	2.76
2000	2.75
2001	2.62
2002	2.87
2003	2.67
2004	3.58
2005	4.25
2006	4.54
2007	4.96

Source:
Energy Sector Indicators, 2008

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted under (i) section 36 and (ii) section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 in each of the last 10 years. [242484]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table provides the data for section 36 power station casework.

	Applications	*Consents*
2000	9	11
2001	4	7
2002	9	8
2003	6	5
2004	5	4
2005	17	4
2006	10	7
2007	12	12
2008	12	12

In the period December 1997 to November 2000 a constraint was imposed on new gas-fired power stations, hence data have been provided from the year in which the policy was lifted.

The Department's electronic database on section 37 casework is a recent innovation and the volume of such casework is high. Our records, however, show an increase from 350 applications in 2001 to 530 applications in 2005, and a further increase in 2007 to 742 applications.

The numbers have been increasing as the network companies seek to improve the resilience of their system. The applications are predominantly for upgrading, minor diversions or rationalisations/re-routing of existing lower voltage lines rather than for completely new high voltage lines. Experience is that the vast majority of these applications would have been consented, with only a few refused or withdrawn.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* received a level 2 fine for the offence of not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each of the last five years. [241614]

Jacqui Smith: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, and issued with a level two fine (over £200 and up to and including £500) at all courts for offences relating to the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12, in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

Additionally, 1,544 individuals received a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for this offence in 2007. In 2006, the figure was 1,061, in 2005 the figure was 712, and in 2004, 485 individuals received a PND for this offence.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court, found guilty, and issued with a level 2 fine (over £200 and up to £500) at all courts for offences relating to the Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12), Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12, in England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Fine (level 2): over £200 and up to £500*
2003	108	94	8
2004	122	98	5
2005	101	76	5
2006	101	73	9
2007	113	98	5

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12.
Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under s.l Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places.
Source:
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animal procedures licences were *(a)* received and *(b)* approved by her Department in each of the last five years. [241064]

Meg Hillier: From the retained records available to us details for licences granted in each of the last five years and the current year to date under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are shown in the following table. A feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. When serious deficiencies are discovered with the proposals during these early discussions with the local inspectors this means that proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Furthermore it is commonly the case that the authorities ultimately granted are not as originally set out by the applicants.

Project Licences

Year project licence applied for	*Number of licences applied for*	*Number granted in 2003*	*Number granted in 2004*	*Number granted in 2005*	*Number granted in 2006*	*Number granted in 2007*	*Number granted in 2008 to date*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
2003	n/a	774	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	575	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	402	x	x	386	89	4	1	13	0
2006	586	x	x	x	430	135	0	21	0
2007	599	x	x	x	x	458	109	32	0
2008 to date	718	x	x	x	x	x	563	155	0
Personal Licences									
2003	n/a	2,273	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	2,156	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	1,784	x	x	1,567	204	5	3	5	0
2006	2,270	x	x	x	1,968	282	6	14	0
2007	2,505	x	x	x	x	2,267	209	29	0

Project Licences

Year project licence applied for	*Number of licences applied for*	*Number granted in 2003*	*Number granted in 2004*	*Number granted in 2005*	*Number granted in 2006*	*Number granted in 2007*	*Number granted in 2008 to date*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
2008 to date	2,638	x	x	x	x	x	2,458	180	0
Certificates of Designation									
2003	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	5	x	x	4	—	—	—	1	—
2006	2	x	x	x	2	—	—	—	—
2007	2	x	x	x	x	2	—	0	0
2008 to date	2	x	x	x	x	x	2	0	0

Arrests: Convictions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there have been for a recordable offence in the last 10 years; and how many such arrests resulted in convictions. [243764]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only.

The data requested are given in the following table covering the period from 1999-2000 (previous years data are unreliable) to 2006-07 (latest available). There is no link from these centrally reported data to any subsequent outcome.

Data for 2007-08 are due to be published in early 2008-09.

Persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), 1999-2000 to 2006-07—England and Wales

	Number of arrests
1999-2000	1,277,900
2000-01	1,264,200
2001-02	1,271,900
2002-03	1,313,100
2003-04	1,330,400
2004-05	1,353,400
2005-06	1,429,800
2006-07	1,482,200

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Biometrics: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pilot schemes for new biometric technology have been carried out over the last five years. [241798]

Jacqui Smith: UKvisas, together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, carried out a pilot collecting two flat fingerprints from visa applicants in Colombo, matching them against IAFS. The pilot started in July 2003, was evaluated after six months and then extended to other posts.

In advance of the BRP rollout, UK Borders Agency ran a pilot at the Croydon Public Enquiry Office from April this year.

Its predecessor, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, ran a Project IRIS pilot from June 2005 to May 2006.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on the introduction of the electronic collection of data relating to people detained in a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [241325]

Mr. Coaker: The detention of people under section 136 in hospitals (but not police stations) falls within the remit of the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) to keep under review the operation of the Mental Health Act. As a result of the Health and Social Care Act that role will pass to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) the new single, integrated regulator for health and adult social care. CQC is intended to operate from April 2009.

The IPCC has recommended that CQC be responsible for analysing and publishing annual data on the use of section 136 and the outcomes for the people involved, to see whether it is being used appropriately by the police. We are aiming to meet with ACPO and the CQC early in the new year to determine whether we can integrate the recording of all persons detained under section 136 to give effect to the IPCC recommendation.

Crime Prevention: Young People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Departments are involved in the prevention of youth crime; and what the role of each is in this respect. [241857]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Ministry of Justice are all jointly committed to tackling the problem of youth crime, and July's Youth Crime Action Plan demonstrates this tri-lateral approach to the problem.

It sets out a triple track approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention.

Clearly the three Departments set out above have different responsibilities within the youth crime agenda and lead on different strands of the work, however all are jointly signed up to this approach.

Generally, the Home Office, with overall responsibility for reducing crime, leads on enforcement and policing strands of work, the Ministry of Justice on the youth justice system, custody and resettlement, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families on early intervention and prevention. However these responsibilities are not absolute and very effective partnership working has been developed to ensure focus on delivery and to reduce any negative effects of possible silo working.

A very significant contribution to the youth crime agenda is also made by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform which is leading on issues of youth victimisation.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* objectives, *(b)* results and *(c)* costs were of the youth crime prevention programmes sponsored by her Department in the last five years. [242029]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has sponsored the following youth crime prevention programmes in the last five years:

Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIPs), established in 2000, are tailor-made programmes for eight to 17-year-olds, who are identified as being at high risk of involvement in offending or antisocial behaviour.

YIPs are also open to other young people in the local area. The programme operates in 110 of the most deprived/high crime estates in England and Wales.

YIPs aim to reduce youth crime and antisocial behaviour in neighbourhoods where they work. Young people on the YIP are identified through a number of different agencies including youth offending teams (YOTs), police, social services, local education authorities or schools, and other local agencies.

The programme gives young people somewhere safe to go where they can learn new skills, take part in activities with others and get help with their education and careers guidance. Positive role models—the workers and volunteer mentors—help to change young people's attitudes to education and crime.

Each project has the following aims:

to engage with a high proportion of the target group of young people (as identified by the agencies above), especially those members deemed most at risk;

to address the risks identified by assessment;

to increase access to mainstream and specialist services, especially in relation to education, training and employment, for the young people involved;

to prevent young people in the programme from entering the Criminal Justice System, and to reduce offending of young people already in the system;

to intervene, not just on an individual level, but with communities and families (especially the parents of the core group).

Each YIP receives an annual grant from the YJB through its YOT and is required to find matched funding from local agencies to add to this. In many areas, programmes also obtain resources from other organisations (such as new deal for communities), which share the aim of supporting communities in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour.

There are now 120 YIPs across England and Wales, based in some of the most deprived and high-crime areas. YIPs work with eight to 17-year-olds carefully targeted according to their risk of involvement in offending or antisocial behaviour. This targeting is based on many factors, such as exclusion from school, and involves many different agencies working together including youth offending teams (YOTs), police, schools and social services.

A total of 25,287 young people were engaged by phase two of YIP. This includes 82 per cent. of the 'Core 50'—the 50 young people in each neighbourhood deemed most to be at risk of crime. The purpose of phase two of YIP is to 'reduce youth crime within the neighbourhood'.

The YJB announced in September that it had exceeded its 5 per cent. target to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system; 10.2 per cent. fewer young people have become involved with crime since 2005-06.

Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISPs) aim to prevent antisocial behaviour and offending by eight to 13-year-olds who are considered to be at high risk of offending.

They have been designed to help the YJB meet its target of putting in place, in each YOT in England and Wales, programmes that will identify and reduce the likelihood of young people committing offences.

Panels are made up of a number of representatives of different agencies (e.g. police, schools, health and social services). The main emphasis of a panel's work is to ensure that children and their families, at the earliest possible opportunity, can access mainstream public services.

Following a successful pilot scheme that began in April 2003, the YJB and the Children's Fund now fund 122 YISPs. Of these, 13 pilot areas have received additional support to develop procedures and innovative practice, which will then provide a framework of best practice for all other YISPs.

The Positive Futures programme is a national sports based social inclusion programme which is funded by the Home Office in partnership with the Football Foundation. The programme aims to have a positive influence on young people's lives through widening their horizons and providing access to new opportunities by using sport, art and leisure activities as a catalyst to encourage project participation and steering young people towards education, training and employment.

The programme helps the Home Office deliver its ambitions around reducing drug use and drug harms, but also helps us achieve other aims relating to crime, antisocial behaviour and guns, gangs and knives. The programme achieves these outcomes by tackling risk factors such as vulnerability and social exclusion as well as by doing more direct work, for example, by putting young people in touch with drugs workers.

The programme has been in operation since 2001 and the number of projects has grown to over 120 projects. The projects operate in each of the 30 areas worst affected by drug-related crime in the country. They are delivered locally by a range of agencies including local authorities, charities, sports clubs and crime reduction agencies.

Between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007 over 48,000 young people attended projects across the country, and nearly 1.1 million contact hours were invested with young people. 76 per cent. of those engaged in the programme had been in contact for periods in excess of 12 weeks.

Funding by the Home Office for all three of the above programmes is as follows—£7 million per annum was provided by the Home Office to the YJB for YIPs when the YJB was sponsored by the Home Office. When responsibility for the YJB passed from the Home Office to MOJ during 2007-08, so did the baseline prevention funding. New SR04 funding was made available to YJB from the Home Office from 2005-06 to 2008-09 (£3 million, £15 million, £15 million, £18 million). Additional YIP and YISP funding (not included here) has been provided by MOJ and DCSF to YJB from 2007-08 onwards.

The Home Office is also providing £5.9 million of funding for the Positive Futures Programme in 2008-09.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent incidents were recorded by the British Crime Survey in each police force area in 2007-08. [241540]

Jacqui Smith: The number of violent incidents per 10,000 adults recorded by the BCS in each police force area is published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Crime in England and Wales", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. Figures for 2007-08 are included in Table 1.

Table 1: Violent crime incidents by police force area—2007-08 BCS

Police force area	*All BCS violence per 10,000 adults*[1]
Cleveland	301
Durham	568
Northumbria	723
Cheshire	376
Cumbria	324
Greater Manchester	503
Lancashire	606
Merseyside	582
Humberside	563
North Yorkshire	278
South Yorkshire	683
West Yorkshire	730
Derbyshire	294
Leicestershire	376
Lincolnshire	463
Northamptonshire	868
Nottinghamshire	810
Staffordshire	641
Warwickshire	626
West Mercia	499
West Midlands	451
Bedfordshire	481
Cambridgeshire	445
Essex	245
Hertfordshire	433
Norfolk	479
Suffolk	165
Metropolitan Police	542
Hampshire	492
Kent	398
Surrey	585
Sussex	298
Thames Valley	531
Avon and Somerset	452
Devon and Cornwall	333
Dorset	651
Gloucestershire	403
Wiltshire	221
Dyfed-Powys	470
Gwent	885
North Wales	303

[1] All BCS violence includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with an offence of violence against the person in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and how many received a police caution and were not prosecuted. [242063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics on the number of persons charged with offences are not collected centrally. The available information relates to persons proceeded against and cautioned and these figures are published by the Ministry of Justice. There were 61,056 persons proceeded against for violence against the person offences in 2007 and 64,763 in 2006. The number who received a caution for violence against the person was 52,334 in 2007 and 57,273 in 2006.

Crimes of Violence: Health Services

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 18 and 23, *(b)* between 24 and 29, *(c)* between 30 and 35, *(d)* between 36 and 40 and *(e)* over 41 years old have been arrested for assaulting paramedics in each month of the last five years. [243545]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The data requested are not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to identify assaults of a paramedic from within the "violence against the person" offence group.

Information on assaults of NHS staff is a matter for the Department of Health.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested in each local authority area for assaulting a paramedic in each month of the last five years. [243546]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The data requested are not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to identify assaults of a paramedic from within the "violence against the person" offence group.

Information on assaults of NHS staff is a matter for the Department of Health.

Driving Under Influence: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire were breathalysed and recorded as below the drink-driving limit in each of the last five years. [243914]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office breath tests collection covers the number of screening breath tests taken and the number positive or refused. The available information covering the Hampshire police force area (which includes the Isle of Wight) is given in the following table.

Screening breath tests conducted and the number positive or refused, Hampshire police force area 2002-06

	Number of tests	Number positive/refused
2002	35,200	4,000
2003	37,500	4,000
2004	38,400	3,800
2005	38,300	4,300
2006	34,800	3,700

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Information collected centrally is broken down by police force area only therefore data for Southampton and the Test Valley borough are not available. Additionally, the collection does not identify the addresses of persons tested.

Drug Seizures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the proposed pilot scheme to test the benefits of establishing a national forensic database of drug seizures will be established; where it will take place; and what the cost of the scheme will be. [241862]

Jacqui Smith: The pilot scheme started on 6 October 2008. The collection of data will take place nationally. This data will be processed on a SOCA site in the Birmingham area. SOCA has funding of £700,000 for the pilot.

Drugs: Crime

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closures there were in *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Kent in each of the last five years. [243114]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced the provision for police to serve a closure notice on any premises that are believed by the police to be used for the production, supply or use of class A drugs, and which are causing serious nuisance or disorder.

The Home Office collects data on the number of closure orders issued through the voluntary Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) survey of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. Latest available data from this survey cover the period from October 2003 to September 2007 and show that in the Ashford CDRP area one such order was served (in 2007). There were 11 closure orders served in Kent over this period, in 2004-05 the figure was two, in 2005-06 the figure was six, in 2006-07 the figure was two, and between April and September 2007 one such closure order was served.

Data for 2007-08 will be published early in 2009.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department plans to spend in total on tackling drugs in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [241538]

Jacqui Smith: Labelled expenditure is defined as that which is included in budgets, is drug-specific and is proactive, in that it is linked to the achievement of specific policy aims. Home Office labelled expenditure for the current financial year is £160.39 million. While precise figures for Home Office labelled expenditure are not yet available for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11, it is expected that the figure will remain broadly stable.

In addition to labelled expenditure, the Home Office meets the costs of activity which is reactive, such as enforcement of the laws surrounding drugs.

Further details of the resources invested by Government departments are set out in an appendix to the drug strategy, which can be viewed at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2008?view=Standard&pubID=531716.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on drugs: crime prevention, when she expects data on crackhouse closure orders in 2007-08 to be available. [241873]

Jacqui Smith: Data on crackhouse closure orders for the 2007-08 period will be published through the CDRP survey of antisocial behaviour tools and powers, which will be available early in 2009.

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long biometric information collected from a recipient of a biometric visa may be retained once the individual is no longer resident in the UK. [241537]

Jacqui Smith: The Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) Regulations 2006 allow biometric data collected as part of the visa application process to be retained for a maximum period of 10 years. However, there are circumstances when this period may be less. These are if a person becomes a British Citizen or a Commonwealth Citizen who has a right of abode in the UK as a result of section 2(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Entry Clearances: Business

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a limit on the number of times a person can be granted entry to the UK for six months as a business visitor. [241611]

Jacqui Smith: There is no restriction on the number of business visits a person may make to the UK, or any requirement that a specified time must elapse between successive visits. The fact that a person has made a series of visits with only brief intervals between them would not, in the absence of any other relevant factors, constitute sufficient grounds for refusal of leave to enter.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1767-8W, on genetics: databases, of the 14,000 offences linked to DNA profiles retained since 2001, how many were detected crimes in which an offender was brought to justice. [241669]

Jacqui Smith: It has been assumed that this question refers to the written answer on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1767-8W (as the *Official Report* for 10 September 2008 does not include a written answer at columns 1767-8W on Genetics: Databases).

The written answer on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1767-8W referred to research information on the number of DNA profiles taken from persons arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, providing the police with an intelligence link on the possible identity of the offender and assisting in the detection of crimes. The research information indicated that in the period May 2001 to December 2005, an estimated 200,000 DNA samples taken from people charged with offences had been retained on the NDNAD, which would previously have had to be removed because of the absence of a conviction. From these, approximately 8,500 profiles of individuals have been linked with crime scene profiles, involving nearly 14,000 offences. These offences included 114 murders, 55 attempted murders and 116 rapes.

No information is available on how many of the 14,000 offences linked to DNA profiles retained since 2001 were detected and on whether an offender was brought to justice. It is understood that this information would have been too time-consuming for the researchers to collate; it would have involved requesting information on the outcomes of the 14,000 crimes from the 43 police forces in England and Wales and subsequent checks by forces of case record systems.

I have asked the National Policing Improvement Agency to look into the possibility of updating the research information on the number of DNA profiles taken from persons arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, providing the police with information on the possible identity of the offender.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have a record on the national DNA database; and of these how many have not been convicted of any crime. [243763]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* At 30 September 2008, there were an estimated 4,631,838 persons with a profile on the National DNA Database (NDNAD). Of these, an estimated 4,355,904 persons had been sampled by forces in England and Wales.

Data on arrest and criminal histories are not held on the NDNAD, but are held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Such data are not available routinely, but the National Policing Improvement Agency obtains information periodically on the number of persons on the NDNAD who have a conviction and on the number of those who have not. This information was last obtained at the end of March 2008.

On 31 March 2008, there were an estimated 4,116,713 persons on the NDNAD sampled by police forces in England and Wales, of whom 3,832,986 persons had a record retained on PNC. Of these, over 3.25 million persons had a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC and around 573,600 persons had no current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC.

The 573,600 figure includes some persons who may have had a caution or conviction record removed from PNC after five to 10 years in accordance with the Rules for Criminal Record Weeding (which applied prior to April 2006); persons who have been charged and acquitted or proceedings discontinued; persons who have been charged with a recordable offence and proceedings are on-going; and persons who have been arrested but no further action was taken against them.

The PNC records for the other 283,727 persons had been removed from the PNC for various reasons, for example, their conviction and caution records had been weeded after five to 10 years, the person had been acquitted or proceedings were discontinued.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the national DNA database has been accessed in relation to a case where *(a)* a conviction was made and *(b)* a conviction was not made; and how many convicted individuals in such circumstances had a DNA profile on the database but had no prior conviction. [243765]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The National DNA Database (NDNAD) functions by comparing subject profiles taken from individuals against DNA crime scene profiles retrieved from unsolved crimes. It cannot be accessed directly by the police service. The NDNAD currently generates around 3,100 matches per month. Details of matches are sent to the relevant police force, providing key intelligence on the possible identity of the offender.

Information on the number of convictions in which DNA profiles from the NDNAD have been used in evidence is not collected by the Home Office, as convictions are obtained by integrated criminal investigation and not by forensic science alone.

However, data have been collected since 1998 on the number of crimes detected in which a DNA match was available and/or played a part in solving the crime. It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to March 2008, there have been over 272,000 such detections.

Information on the number of detections/convictions in which DNA subject sample profiles on the NDNAD taken from persons with no previous convictions have been used in evidence is not available from the NDNAD, nor is it available from police force data collected by the Home Office on forensic activity and related detections. The NDNAD holds DNA profiles taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence but does not hold data on their criminal histories; this information is held on the police national computer (PNC).

Human Trafficking

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's definition is of a person who has been trafficked. [241130]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department considers a victim of human trafficking to be an individual who has been subjected to the crimes set out in sections 57-60 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

However, identifying if someone is a victim of human trafficking is a complex issue. It is a largely an unreported crime and there is also a need to protect against fraudulent claims. The UK is currently in the process of developing a formal identification procedure to help identify if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is a victim of human trafficking. This will follow the internationally recognised definitions of human trafficking as set out in the Palermo protocol.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people-trafficking related *(a)* investigations, *(b)* resultant trials and *(c)* subsequent convictions have arisen through the activity of the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit in each year since its inception. [243145]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to give a percentage breakdown of trials and investigations which are ongoing throughout the country.

The data provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate that of the 92 convictions secured for offences of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, 28 have been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area. It is not possible to break down the number solely related to the work of the Met's trafficking unit as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, the clubs and vice unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

The number of convictions by year is as follows:

	Number
2004	1
2005	10
2006	10
2007	1
2008	6

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of individuals trafficked into the UK for *(a)* sexual exploitation and *(b)* forced labour purposes in the most recent year for which figures are available. [243480]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The covert nature of crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom.

The latest estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who were possibly victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There is no estimate available at this time on the numbers of possible victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Police Regional Intelligence Units continues work to build a clearer picture of the nature and scale of the threat posed by all forms of trafficking.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of individuals trafficked into the UK for *(a)* sexual exploitation and *(b)* forced labour purposes who have been rescued as a result of work carried out by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking team. [243481]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of trafficking victims rescued solely as a result of the work of the MPS human trafficking team as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, other forces, the Clubs and Vice Unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

Human Trafficking: Ministerial Statements

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that all oral and written statements to be made in the House regarding human trafficking and related matters are notified in advance to the hon. Member for Totnes in his capacity as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children. [242536]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* We shall continue to issue oral and written statements in the usual way.

Human Trafficking: Press Releases

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that all press releases from her Department regarding human trafficking and related matters are sent to the hon. Member for Totnes in his capacity as Chairman of the

All Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children at the same time as they are released to the media. [242537]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* We shall continue to release press statements on human trafficking in the usual way.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been prosecuted as a result of work carried out by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking team. [243482]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Of the 92 convictions secured for human trafficking offences 27 have been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area. It is not possible to break down the number solely related to the work of the Met's trafficking unit as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, the Clubs and Vice Unit as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

Maritime Analysis Operations Centre - Narcotics

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the Government *(a)* has contributed to the Maritime Analysis Operations Centre—Narcotics in 2007-08, *(b)* plans to contribute to the Centre in 2008-09 and *(c)* plans to contribute in each of the next three years. [241864]

Jacqui Smith: Under the terms of the EC Action Grant, 70 per cent. of the total agreed funding of the centre is provided by the European Commission. The remaining 30 per cent. is divided up between the seven partner countries involved in MAOC (N), which includes the UK.

In accordance with these terms, SOCA has contributed the following cash funding to MAOC (N):

	Cash funding (£)
June 2007	23,973
June 2008	4,626

The initial funding of £23,973 (€35,000) was sought from each partner country in advance as a contribution to set up costs. However, the amount sought turned out to be insufficient to fulfil the agreement that the seven partner countries should contribute 30 per cent. of the total funding. The second year's contribution of £4,626 (€5,782) was therefore the additional amount required from each partner country to make up the 30 per cent. of the total grant. The grant will cover MAOC (N) until June 2010, when a second application for funding will be made.

In addition to this funding, SOCA provides three full-time staff to MAOC (N): two on loan and one fully funded by SOCA.

It is not yet possible to provide details of the funding contributions for future years.

Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the withdrawal of funding for the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit; and if she will make a statement. [243116]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following discussions with the Metropolitan Police Service, we have decided to provide additional funding for the MPS trafficking team.

Human trafficking is part of core police business and this funding, which is a one-off grant, is designed to enable the MPS to mainstream this work into its daily activities in a planned and organised fashion.

Parenting Contracts

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 595W, on parenting contracts, how the use of such contracts is monitored; and how their effectiveness is assessed. [242030]

Jacqui Smith: Parenting contracts are voluntary, informal arrangements and as such are not suitable for data collection. As data are not collected there is no formal monitoring system. However, while breach of a parenting contract carries no criminal sanction, evidence of non-compliance can be used by applicant agencies when applying to the courts for a parenting order.

Breach of a parenting order is a criminal offence.

Passports: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of *(a)* issuing and *(b)* producing passports in each of the last eight years has been; and what estimate has been made of the cost of (i) issuing and (ii) producing passports for each of the next eight years. [241860]

Jacqui Smith: The costs of *(a)* issuing and *(b)* producing passports within IPS for the last eight financial years are as follows:

		£ million
	Issuing costs	*Production costs*
2000-01	3.9	73.1
2001-02	3.8	82.1
2002-03	3.1	78.4
2003-04	5.5	82.3
2004-05	20.0	92.1
2005-06	21.7	107.3
2006-07	22.3	154.4
2007-08	17.2	159.0

The Identity Cards Scheme cost report published in November 2008 sets out the expected costs for the delivery of the scheme as a whole, which includes both identity cards and passports. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and ID card. The full cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used, thus costs cannot be separated for passports only. Further details are contained within the November 2008 cost report.

Police: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the change in police force costs in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [240346]

Mr. Coaker: General estimates of inflation are made by reference to the Treasury gross domestic product deflator. Changes in the index since 2001-02 have been as follows:

	Percentage change
2001-02	+2.23
2002-03	+3.22
2003-04	+2.85
2004-05	+2.72
2005-06	+2.05
2006-07	+2.69
2007-08	+3.06

Source:
HM Treasury http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/gdp_deflators.xls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was made available to *(a)* Gloucestershire constabulary and *(b)* police forces in England from (i) the general grant, (ii) additional rules 2 grant, (iii) security grant, (iv) Crime Fighting Fund grant, (v) police community support officer grant, (vi) Basic Crime Unit grant and (vii) probationer training grant in each year between 2001-02 and 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [240814]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

£ million

	2001-02[1,2]		*2002-03*[3]		*2003-04*[3]	
	Gloucestershire	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*
General Grant[5]	54.1	6,330.0	55.3	6,478.0	57.0	6,762.9
Additional Rule 2 Grant	1.2	93.5	1.3	104.4	1.6	148.5
Dedicated Security Post Grant[6]	—	154.5	—	155.3	—	196.5
Crime Fighting Fund	1.2	130.6	2.0	218.3	2.3	247.0
Police Community Support Officer Grant	—	—	—	19.2	0.2	39.0
Basic Command Unit Fund	—	—	—	—	0.4	47.7
Probationer Training Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—

£ million

	2004-05[3]		*2005-06*		*2005-06*[3,4]	
	Gloucestershire	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*
General Grant[5]	58.9	6,991.6	61.1	7,334.5	52.9	6,870.1
Additional Rule 2 Grant	1.8	169.3	1.8	181.4	1.8	181.4
Dedicated Security Post Grant[6]	—	203.4	—	212.5	—	212.5
Crime Fighting Fund	2.4	265.1	2.4	265.1	2.4	265.1
Police Community Support Officer Grant	0.4	46.5	1.0	73.2	1.0	73.2
Basic Command Unit Fund	0.4	47.7	0.4	47.7	0.4	47.7
Probationer Training Grant	—	—	—	—	—	—

£ million

	2006-07		*2007-08*[7,8]		*2008-09*[9]	
	Gloucestershire	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*
General Grant[5]	54.5	7,090.9	56.4	7,348.0	57.8	7,548.1

£ million

	2006-07		*2007-08[7] [8]*		*2008-09[9]*	
	Gloucestershire	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*	*Gloucestershire*	*Total English police authorities*
Additional Rule 2 Grant	1.8	182.0	1.8	182.0	2.1	197.5
Dedicated Security Post Grant[6]	—	212.5	—	212.5	—	224.5
Crime Fighting Fund	2.4	265.1	2.4	265.1	2.4	265.1
Police Community Support Officer Grant	0.5	40.5	0.5	41.8	3.0	308.3
Basic Command Unit Fund	0.4	47.7	0.4	47.7	0.3	38.2
Probationer Training Grant	—	—	0.2	16.2	—	—

[1] The term 'Rule 2' grant did not exist until 2006-07. The specific grants that make up rule 2 grants existing in 2001-02 and 2002-03 comprise Rural Policing Fund and Forensic (DNA) Grant for Gloucestershire. The total English figure also includes the London/SE Allowance.

[2] General grant adjusted for NCS and NCIS.

[3] 'Rule 2' grants includes from 2003-04 Special Priority Payments.

[4] Adjusted general grant for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

[5] The total general grant for English police authorities includes City of London's share of RSG and NNDR.

[6] For reasons of security, we do not disclose the level of funding provided to individual forces from the Dedicated Security Post (DSP) Grant. The total DSP grant for England and Wales between 2001-02 and 2008-09 is in the aforementioned table.

[7] The National Policing Improvement Agency vested in April 2007. Therefore data on probationer funding prior to 2007 is not held by NPIA.

[8] The £16.2 million for the IPLDP is for all England and Wales forces except the Metropolitan Police, who were not funded by the Home Office for this purpose.

[9] 'Rule 2' grant for 2008-09 includes Initial Police Learning and Development Programme Grant which was included for the first time this year. Allocations of IPLDP are distributed on the basis of allocations under that grant in the last two years.

Police: Gloucestershire

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* security grant, *(b)* crime fighting fund grant, *(c)* police community support officer grant, *(d)* basic crime unit grant and *(e)* probationer training grant will be for Gloucestershire in 2009-10. [240348]

Mr. Coaker: The Government announced a three year police funding settlement for policing 2008-09 to 2010-11 in December 2007. This provided a background of stability and continuity against which the police and all stakeholders could plan, in partnership, with much greater certainty and confidence.

On 26 November 2008 the Government confirmed that they are implementing the settlement for 2009-10 broadly unchanged from that announced last year.

The information requested is set out in the following table.

Gloucestershire 2009-10

	£ million
Additional Rule 2 Grant[1]	2.1
Dedicated Security Post Grant[2]	—
Crime Fighting Fund	2.4
Neighbourhood Policing Fund/Police Community Support Officer Grant	3.1
Basic Command Unit Fund	0.3

[1] Additional Rule 2 Grant/Special Formula Grant comprises—Rural Policing Fund, Forensic (DNA) Grant, Special Priority Payments and the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme Grant.

[2] The overall figure for Dedicated Security Post (DSP) grant in England and Wales for 2009-10 has not yet been decided. However, for reasons of security we do not disclose the level of funding provided to individual forces from the DSP grant.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on the proceeds of crime, what initiatives have been funded through allocations to police forces under the asset recovery incentive scheme. [241884]

Jacqui Smith: In 2007-08 police forces invested most of their monies from the incentive scheme in further developing their asset recovery and financial investigation capacity, with the funding of financial investigator posts, anti-money laundering teams, and asset recovery operations. In addition some funds were used on local projects to tackle gun and knife crime. The Metropolitan Police Service also made a grant to the Safer London Foundation. Other forces supported a range of community initiatives, including youth projects, road shows, prevention of doorstep crime, over-60s club, and equipment for a faith based community centre.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the application of the definition of a prostitute controlled for another person's gain to male and female prostitutes in circumstances where the other person is *(a)* a receptionist, *(b)* also working as a prostitute, *(c)* working as a prostitute on the same premises, *(d)* a partner or a flatmate who shares premises with the prostitute, *(e)* a landlord letting the premises where the prostitute is working and *(f)* a dependant. [242658]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have announced our intention to include the offence of controlling a prostitute for gain in the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill, which will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows. An explanation of the intended application of this offence will be given during the passage of this Bill.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the application of the definition of a prostitute controlled for another person's gain to male and female prostitutes in circumstances where the prostitute has voluntarily entered into a working relationship with another person. [242659]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have announced our intention to include the offence of controlling a prostitute for gain in the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill, which will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows. An explanation of the intended application of this offence will be given during the passage of this Bill.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of prostitutes working in the UK who are *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* under the age of 16 years, *(d)* addicted to drugs, *(e)* homeless, *(f)* supporting dependants and *(g)* working for another person's gain; on what research her estimates are based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [242661]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available.

Prostitution: Age

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the average age of a person working as a prostitute in the UK; on what research her estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [242660]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available.

Prostitution: Public Consultation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to conducting a public consultation as part of her review of the demand for prostitution; and whether she plans to conduct a public consultation on the recommendations of the review. [242663]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The review of tackling the demand for prostitution engaged with key stakeholders and practitioners, including the police and the Crown Prosecution Service as well as a variety of organisations that provide support to individuals involved in prostitution, and considered a range of evidence from a number of sources. There are no plans to conduct a public consultation on the recommendations of the review.

Theft

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* theft and *(b)* burglary have been reported in (i) the UK, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [242655]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences of theft and burglary recorded by the police. Figures for England and Wales and the North East region are given in the following tables. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency comes within the Middlesbrough basic command unit for which these data are only available from 2000-01. Data for Tees Valley are not available.

Table 1: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by the police, 1997

Number of offences

Area	*1997* *Theft*	*Burglary*
England and Wales	2,164,952	1,015,075
North East Region	112,327	63,225
Middlesbrough	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

	1998-99		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
Area	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*
England and Wales	2,191,439	953,184	2,223,620	906,468	2,145,372	836,027	2,266,964	878,509
North East Region	114,392	58,288	92,097	51,163	101,175	47,619	103,315	48,626
Middlesbrough	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12,378	6,340	13,068	7,163

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of theft and burglary recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Number of offences

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
Area	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*
England and Wales[1]	2,411,583	890,099	2,312,890	820,013	2,067,728	680,358
North East Region	106,434	43,210	98,763	40,961	87,149	33,032
Middlesbrough	12,148	5,405	9,846	4,299	10,605	3,326

Number of offences

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Area	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Burglary*
England and Wales[1]	2,019,013	645,068	1,945,817	622,012	1,777,603	583,609
North East Region	94,090	29,971	86,258	28,724	75,153	28,035

Number of offences

Area	*2005-06* *Theft*	*Burglary*	*2006-07* *Theft*	*Burglary*	*2007-08* *Theft*	*Burglary*
Middlesbrough	9,679	3,329	8,863	2,619	8,160	2,926

[1] Includes British Transport police from 2002-03 onwards.

Note:

The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard In April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Theft: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* vehicle thefts and *(b)* domestic burglaries there were in (i) Southampton, (ii) Test Valley Borough and (iii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [243915]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables and relates to the Southampton and Test Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) areas and the Hampshire police force area.

Table 1: Offences of theft of a vehicle recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Offence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Southampton CDRP	1,433	1,176	1,024	1,039	810
Test Valley CDRP	213	160	174	217	171
Hampshire	5,822	4,871	4,398	4,726	4,000

Table 2: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Offence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Southampton CDRP	1,326	829	990	960	900
Test Valley CDRP	311	241	299	256	279
Hampshire	7,030	5,415	5,810	5,451	5,300

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders were registered in Essex in each of the last five years. [240450]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of registered sex offenders living in Essex in five years is represented in the following table as reported in the annual MAPPA reports for Essex.

Number of registered sex offenders in Essex

	Number
2003-04	542
2004-05	680
2005-06	802
2006-07	735
2007-08	735

Figures are as recorded in the annual MAPPA reports for Essex.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 16 December 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools constructed under the Building Schools for the Future programme have been the subject of a post-occupancy evaluation. [242684]

Jim Knight: The Strategic Partnering Agreement between a local authority and their private sector partner (PSP) requires the PSP to carry out an evaluation of every school that is built one year after opening in order to demonstrate customer satisfaction. The methodology is to use the DQI-design quality indicator 'in use' tool to capture customer views.

All major school projects, including those constructed within Building Schools for the Future, are required to undergo an environmental assessment using BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). This method now includes a post-construction review which compares an assessment of the environmental impact of the school as constructed against impact as designed.

DCSF and Partnerships for Schools are exploring what other data it would be useful to collect, particularly 'hard' environmental data to evaluate how schools are performing against the 60 per cent. carbon reduction target. PfS is planning to pilot the broader approach before the end of the current financial year.

To date, Bristol Brunel Academy has carried out a DQI 'in use' exercise.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which schools more than 2 per cent. of pupils were children in care in the latest period for which figures are available. [241740]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

The Department's main source of information on children in care is the Children Looked After Survey, but this does not record which schools pupils attend. However, information on whether a pupil is in care is also collected via the School Census. The most recent census data relate to January 2008.

This census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, show 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of the Ofsted inspectors who undertook the recent inspection of Haringey child protection services took part in the *(a)* 2007 Annual Performance Assessment and *(b)* 2006 Joint Area Review. [240757]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were on the Child Protection Register in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [241395]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the table.

Children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP)[1, 2], years at 31 March 1997 to 2008, coverage: Government Office Region in England

	England	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
Subject of a CPP at 31 March										
Number										
1997	32,400	2,250	4,245	4,960	3,265	3,390	2,465	5,025	3,845	2,920
1998	31,600	2,155	3,965	4,485	3,145	3,565	2,800	4,995	3,660	2,875
1999	31,900	2,165	4,205	4,015	3,095	3,760	3,080	4,900	3,815	2,845
2000	30,300	2,105	4,050	3,390	3,135	3,600	2,865	4,810	3,835	2,485
2001	26,800	1,835	3,245	2,885	2,640	3,130	2,595	4,625	3,720	2,155

Children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP)[1], [2], years at 31 March 1997 to 2008, coverage: Government Office Region in England

	England	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
2002	25,700	1,935	3,390	2,850	2,370	2,995	2,490	4,500	3,105	2,095
2003	26,600	1,920	3,795	2,870	2,485	2,960	2,520	4,600	3,220	2,105
2004	26,300	1,770	3,470	2,950	2,280	3,010	2,480	4,770	3,375	2,150
2005	25,900	1,715	3,440	2,730	2,125	3,330	2,450	4,650	3,500	1,980
2006	26,400	1,615	3,375	2,830	2,275	3,305	2,600	4,745	3,540	2,085
2007	27,900	1,785	3,565	2,730	2,525	3,400	2,620	4,955	3,880	2,330
2008	29,200	1,980	3,980	2,835	2,410	3,475	2,745	5,210	4,210	2,345
Rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years:										
1997	29	37	n/a	42	34	27	20	31	22	28
1998	28	36	25	38	33	28	23	31	20	27
1999	28	37	26	34	33	30	25	30	21	27
2000	27	36	25	29	33	29	23	29	21	23
2001	24	32	20	25	28	25	21	28	20	20
2002	23	33	21	25	25	24	20	27	17	20
2003	24	35	24	25	26	24	21	29	18	21
2004	24	32	23	26	24	25	20	29	19	20
2005	23	31	22	24	23	27	30	29	20	19
2006	24	24	22	25	24	27	21	29	20	26
2007	25	33	24	24	27	29	21	31	22	22
2008	27	37	27	25	26	29	22	32	23	22

n/a = Not available.

[1] England figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Government Office Region figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Figures include unborn children.

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans or placed on the Child Protection Register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 24/2008 "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—Year ending 31 March 2008" on 16 September 2008. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [242454]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the last 12 months, the Department spent *(a)* £2,653 on Christmas cards and *(c)* £460 on a Christmas tree at its headquarters building. The Department does not fund *(b)* Christmas parties.

Dartmouth Community College

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward the timetable for the rebuilding of Dartmouth Community College from 2011; and if he will make a statement. [243823]

Jim Knight: Following a public consultation on the management of Waves 7 to 15 of BSF in the summer, I announced in September our aim to start all local authorities into BSF as soon as is practicable, with an initial priority project covering four to five schools. All local authorities were invited to submit an expression of interest (EoI) on this basis and Devon was active in consulting Partnerships for Schools prior to submitting its EoI. We are now working with Partnerships for Schools to prioritise expressions of interest in line with our published guidance, and I aim to announce the revised national programme early next year.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library figures for 2007-08. [241678]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The spend for the Department for Children, Schools and Families for departmental air travel for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 was £235,186.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242127]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect this information centrally in the form requested. Information on the number of staff taking degree or diploma courses funded by the Department is held locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The criteria for funding degree or diploma courses will be driven by Professional Skills for Government.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in each year since his Department's formation. [243737]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This Department does not fund *(a)* departmental Christmas parties or *(b)* staff entertainment.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243040]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families conducted its only citizens' jury in 2007 and followed this with 11 related deliberative debates to ensure that the views of parents and young people were reflected in the development and implementation of the Children's Plan.

The Department organised a citizen's jury at Bristol Brunel Academy on 6 September 2007. 38 people participated, including children, young people and teachers from the academy; and parents and local practitioners working with children.

The Department followed this citizens' jury with three sets of deliberative debates with members of the public and education professionals.

The first set of deliberative debates was held on Saturday 29 September 2007, with four events running simultaneously in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham. These events formed part of the consultative process for the Children's Plan. Around 400 young people, parents, teachers and those working with children and young people were involved.

The second set was held on 8 March 2008, with four events again running in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham. The events focused on policy areas in the Children's Plan. Around 240 people attended, including parents, young people and educational professionals.

The last set took place on 13 September 2008. The events were held in London, Leeds and Birmingham and were attended by around 300 people including parents, local practitioners and representatives of stakeholder organisations. The themes discussed were Parents as Partners in Learning; the Childcare Strategy and Parental Complaints.

Participants were not paid to attend the citizens' jury but were paid a small sum to attend the deliberative events to cover out of pocket expenses.

It is not possible to establish a definitive figure for juries or panels from predecessor Departments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the expenses of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in each of the last three years. [240635]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of expenses incurred by Ministers and civil servants in the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the last three financial years are set out as follows:

Ministers and civil servants

	£
2007-08	1,072,411
2006-07[1]	1,155,876
2005-06[1]	1,345,661

[1] Figures for 2006-07 and 2005-06 refer to the former Department for Education and Skills.

Travel and subsistence (reimbursable expenses) is claimed via the Department's integrated financial information system and is recorded under the general heading of 'Subsistence'. Ministers' expenses are not brigaded separately on the Department's accounting system and are included in the aforementioned totals.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change and the aforementioned expenditure recorded includes that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills.

All expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting". All travel undertaken by DCSF civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code".

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 705W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242159]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Department, the number of people who have been employed through the agencies in each year are as follows:

	Adecco	*Reed*	*Hays*	*Total*
July 2007 to December 2007	33	22	43	98
January 2008 to October 2008	0	76	87	163
Total	33	98	130	261

Information on the average duration of appointments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to alter the education maintenance allowance system following the introduction of requirements for 16 to 18-year-olds to remain in education or training. [244546]

Jim Knight: As published in the Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps document

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/1419/documents/7928DCSF Delivering%201419%20Reform%20Summary.pdf

some young people will always require support to help them overcome any barriers—financial or otherwise—to participation. We must ensure that financial constraints are not a barrier for young people. This will entail providing support to those who need it and we are looking at a variety of methods to ensure that this is done in the most effective way. This will include building on the education maintenance allowance, which from September this year links financial support more closely to attainment and behaviour. We will continue to look at ways of supporting all young people to enable them to participate.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the introduction of education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [244549]

Jim Knight: Assessing the economic impact of EMA is not simple but our analysis of the education maintenance allowance shows that the expected economic benefits far outweigh the costs. For the first cohort of recipients in the national rollout in 2004-05, evaluation evidence suggests that an extra 18,000 16-year-olds participated in full-time education than would have done so without EMA and an extra 16,000 participated at age 17. This is estimated to have generated an additional 10,100 Level 2 and 11,900 Level 3 qualifications being gained by the age of 18. Based on these benefits, our best estimate of the net benefit to the economy from supporting this cohort is around £880 million over the lifetime of these individuals. Given the range of assumptions that are necessary in carrying out such as assessment, our estimate should be seen as indicative.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider assessing eligibility for education maintenance allowance on the basis of net rather than gross family income. [244550]

Jim Knight: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) has had the biggest impact on participation of any policy initiative in over a decade. From 2003-04 to 2004-05 the national participation rate for 16-year-olds in full-time education increased by 3.7 percentage points, exceeding expectations. EMA was one of the key policies aimed at increasing participation and has been a major contributor to this increase. One of the factors that has contributed to the success of EMA has been its simplicity. There are a range of alternatives to using gross income to assess eligibility for EMA, including using net income. All of these have various advantages and disadvantages. We currently believe that out of the available options for assessing eligibility for EMA, the simplicity of using gross income is preferable.

Education: Finance

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which organisation it is proposed that *(a)* sixth form colleges, *(b)* further education colleges and *(c)* schools should be able to appeal against a funding decision in regard to education provision for 16 to 18-year-olds taken by (i) a local authority and (ii) a sub-regional group under the proposals set out in the Raising Expectations White Paper. [243364]

Jim Knight: The new arrangements are designed to more closely follow learner choice and ensure that the outcomes for young people are delivered in a more integrated manner with local authorities acting as the strategic commissioners for children's services for children aged 0 to 19. They will need to work collaboratively with other local authorities, schools and colleges to shape the offer to young people across the country and to deliver these commissioning decisions.

As now, there will be a dialogue between commissioners and those to be commissioned about what can be delivered for young people, informed by the previous year's performance. These discussions will then inform local and regional commissioning plans that will be scrutinised, at a regional level, by the proposed Young People's Learning Agency to ensure overall coherence and budgetary control.

DCSF officials are working with local authority, school and college representatives to establish whether any appeals processes are required and, if so, how they would operate. In principle we would expect any appeal to be directed in the first instance to the local authority making the funding decision, though this would have to be balanced with the bureaucracy that any process of appeals might generate.

We have set out in the "Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps" document, that local authorities will make the funding decisions in relation to education provision for 16 to 18-year-olds. Sub-regional groups will not, therefore, make specific funding decisions in relation to individual providers.

Education: ICT

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received from teaching organisations on the potential risks arising from the use of wireless technology; and if he will make a statement. [243952]

Jim Knight: In the last two years, one representation has been received from a teaching organisation. The General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT) wrote expressing concern about the use of wireless technology. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has stated that there is no reason why wi-fi should not be used in schools.

Educational Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of teachers working in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England who were subject to physical attack in the workplace in 2008; [243968]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of physical attacks against people working in education in West Chelmsford constituency in 2008. [243969]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Information about the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions as a result of a physical assault against an adult was published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 14/2008 "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils is entitled to free school meals in each secondary school which does not have specialist status; and if he will make a statement. [241632]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Further Education: Sittingbourne

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what commitments he has received from the Learning and Skills Council on the provision of a further education college for Sittingbourne. [244236]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State has not received any commitments from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for a new further education (FE) college in Sittingbourne. Although the LSC and local partners have identified a need for some additional FE provision in Sittingbourne, there is insufficient demand for a new FE college.

Canterbury College, together with Swale borough council, is investigating whether there is scope for the college to have an additional presence in the area as part of the town's regeneration plans. If the college concludes this to be appropriate, it will consult locally before putting a case to the LSC for consideration. In the event of a proposal for an existing college to locate a new site in Sittingbourne, the Secretary of State has no role in the decision.

GCSE: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of eligible pupils passed at least five GCSEs in Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997. [240561]

Jim Knight: Readily available information on the percentage of eligible pupils in Vale of York constituency achieving five or more GCSEs is given in the following table:

Percentage gaining five or more grades A-G at GCSEs*

	Percentage
1997	96.5
1998	97.4
1999	96.8
2000	97.4
2001	97
2002	97.6
2003	95.6
2004	98
2005	98.5
2006	97.9
2007	98.9

Notes:

1. Data from 1997 to 2006 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year. The 2007 figure is based on pupils at the end of KS4.

2. Data from 2004 to 2007 include equivalents.

GCSEs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children in the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived areas received (i) at least five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in 2008, (ii) level 5 or above at key stage 3 in 2006, *(c)* level 4 or above at key stage 2 in 2003 and (iv) level 2 or above at key stage 1 in 1999; [240590]

(2) what percentage of children on *(a)* free school meals and *(b)* not on free school meals received (i) at least five GCSEs at A* - C including English and mathematics in 2008, (ii) level 5 or above at key stage 3 in 2006, (iv) level 4 or above at key stage 2 in 2003 and (iv) level 2 or above at key stage 1 in 1999; [240592]

(3) how many pupils eligible for free school meals who *(a)* obtained and *(b)* did not obtain level 4 in key stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain (i) five GCSEs at A*to C and (ii) five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics; [240630]

(4) how many and what proportion of pupils registered as gifted and talented did not sit at least one A-level examination in 2008. [240627]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Some information on attainment by pupil characteristics has been published in the Statistical First Release, "DCSF: National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08" on 11 December. Additional information by pupil characteristics will be produced after that date.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many gifted and talented pupils *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care who obtained level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain five GCSEs at A* to C in 2007; [241713]

(2) how many pupils *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care who (i) obtained and (ii) did not obtain level 4 in key stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain five GCSEs at A* to C in 2007. [241714]

Jim Knight: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml.

Information on attainment in schools can be found in tables B and C which show the number at each key stage and, of those, the number and percentage achieving the expected level. The OC2 is an aggregate data collection and it is therefore not possible to link the achievements of looked after children at key stage 2 to those at key stage 4.

Geography: GCE A Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1502-3W, on schools: assessments, which mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for A-level geography. [243855]

Jim Knight: The information required is given as follows.

Only schools that were published in the 2007 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables have been given.

Maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A-level Geography in 2006-07

		Number of 16-18 year olds[1]
2034130	Plumstead Manor—Negus School	577
2044686	The Skinners' Company's School for Girls	152
2064108	Highbury Grove School	133
2064614	Central Foundation Boys' School	76
2084509	Charles Edward Brooke School	88
2085400	La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls' School	139
2085403	Archbishop Tenison's School	36
2085404	St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls	140
2104680	St Saviour's and St Olave's Church of England School	125
2106905	City of London Academy (Southwark)	51
2106906	The Academy at Peckham	133
2114242	Mulberry School for Girls	356
2114507	Central Foundation Girls' School	231
2114722	Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School	335
2124297	Ernest Bevin College	187
2124329	Battersea Technology College	62
2126900	ADT College	184
2134723	St Augustine's C of E High School	107
2136905	Paddington Academy	202
3014024	Eastbury Comprehensive School	217
3024009	The Ravenscroft School—a technology college	92
3024012	Whitefield School	147
3026905	London Academy	311
3034022	Erith School	235
3034603	Trinity School, Belvedere	86
3036905	The Business Academy Bexley	90
3044006	Wembley High Technology College	180
3045401	Copland—a specialist science community college	604
3045404	Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	131
3045407	Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics and Computing College	44
3045408	John Kelly Boys' Technology College	134
3054002	Cator Park School	209
3066900	BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology	582
3076905	West London Academy	112
3084038	Lea Valley High School	112
3084041	Salisbury School	124
3084043	Highlands School	192
3084702	Bishop Stopford's School	152
3085402	Albany School	190
3094034	Woodside High School, a business and enterprise specialist school	68
3094037	Park View Academy	64
3094703	St Thomas More Catholic School	172
3096905	Greig City Academy	114
3124654	Guru Nanak Sikh Voluntary Aided Secondary School	72
3125406	Rosedale College	159
3125409	Abbotsfield School	78
3125410	Swakeleys School	159
3125412	Barnhill Community High School	151
3126905	Stockley Academy	67
3134021	Hounslow Manor School	100
3134022	Longford Community School	176
3134024	Brentford School for Girls	114
3145403	Coombe Boys' School	93
3174027	Loxford School of Science and Technology	293
3174029	Woodbridge High School	299
3174035	Mayfield School	235
3174605	Ilford Ursuline High School	155
3194011	Glenthorne High School	150
3206905	Walthamstow Academy	2
3304084	Washwood Heath Technology College	113
3304129	Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College	65
3304207	Handsworth Wood Girls' Visual and Performing Arts Specialist College and Sixth Form Centre	51
3304227	Broadway School	143
3305412	George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	185
3314000	Barr's Hill School and Community College	74
3314029	Foxford School and Community Arts College	135
3314030	Lyng Hall School	65
3314038	Sidney Stringer School—specialising in mathematics and computing	145
3325401	Ellowes Hall Sports College	63
3334120	Tividale Community Arts College	74
3335400	Manor Foundation Business and Sports College	74
3354016	Frank F Harrison Engineering College	87
3354017	Alumwell Business and Enterprise College	164
3354100	Darlaston Community Science College	114
3354105	Willenhall School Sports College	195
3354107	Sneyd Community School	105
3355401	St Thomas More Catholic School, Willenhall	247
3364106	The Northicote School	117
3364115	Deansfield High School	96
3364129	Pendeford Business and Enterprise College	99
3364130	Wednesfield High School	149
3364131	Parkfield High School	108
3364133	Colton Hills Community School	170
3364606	Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Sports College	122
3404609	All Saints Catholic High School	152
3414404	Holly Lodge Girls' College	176
3414419	Shorefields School	53

Maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A-level Geography in 2006-07

		Number of 16-18 year olds[1]
3414421	The Alsop High School Technology College and Vocational Specialist School	257
3414423	Croxteth Community Comprehensive School	91
3414425	Broadgreen High School—a technology college	164
3414428	New Heys Comprehensive School	129
3414781	Archbishop Blanch Church of England Voluntary Aided High School—a technology and training school	195
3414787	Bellerive FCJ Catholic College	145
3414788	St Benedict's College	114
3416906	North Liverpool Academy	156
3424710	St Aelred's Catholic Technology College	160
3434802	St Michael's Church of England High School	88
3444071	South Wirral High School	144
3524257	Whalley Range 11-18 High School and Business and Enterprise College	297
3554018	Beis Yaakov High School	6
3714020	North Doncaster Technology College	179
3714029	Don Valley School and Performing Arts College	210
3714607	Rossington All Saints Church of England (VA) School—a sports college	145
3716905	Trinity Academy	120
3804001	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	160
3804022	Belle Vue Boys' School	98
3804034	Rhodesway School	206
3804036	Tong School	176
3804041	Belle Vue Girls' School	193
3804077	Nab Wood School	133
3804101	Grange Technology College	295
3804613	Feversham College	96
3805404	Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College	136
3814024	Sowerby Bridge High School	114
3814026	Todmorden High School	95
3814036	The Ridings School	27
3834031	City of Leeds School	44
3834044	Primrose High School	52
3834045	John Smeaton Community High School	99
3834054	Intake High School Arts College	84
3834056	Farnley Park High School	70
3834057	Wortley High School	65
3834058	West Leeds High School	99
3834059	Parklands Girls' High School	90
3834103	Rodillian School	136
3904605	Cardinal Hume Catholic School	93
3914450	Walker Technology College	140
3914480	Benfield School	136
3914500	All Saints College	91
8014032	Brislington Enterprise College	62
8034124	Sir Bernard Lovell School	165
8034149	The Grange School and Sports College	72
8124503	Matthew Humberstone Church of England School	84
8134091	Vale of Ancholme Technology College	55
8134491	Baysgarth School	62
8154203	Ripon College	55
8254001	Highcrest Community School	76
8254072	Cressex Community School	73
8254074	Burnham Upper School	43
8254701	St Bernard's Catholic School	94
8264085	Sir Frank Markham Community School	95
8304001	Mortimer Wilson School	72
8315403	Merrill College	121
8354178	The Grange School	84
8364111	Rossmore Community College	62
8364112	Ashdown Technology College	32
8374189	Oakmead College of Technology	135
8404154	Spennymoor Comprehensive School	103
8404178	King James I Community Arts College	111
8454058	The Grove	66
8454073	Filsham Valley School	41
8464067	Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College	163
8564005	New College Leicester	53
8604066	Norton Canes High School	37
8604084	Maryhill High School	73
8604156	Belgrave High School	103
8674030	The Brakenhale School	39
8674058	Sandhurst School	95
8714082	Baylis Court School	72
8714089	Wexham School	137
8715409	The Westgate School	67
8734004	Impington Village College	270
8754129	Woodford Lodge High School	30
8754130	The Verdin High School	48
8754161	Ellesmere Port Specialist School of Performing Arts	90
8754165	Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School	177
8774201	Penketh High School	110
8794189	Tamarside Community College	190
8794190	Stoke Damerel Community College	272
8814735	St Peters College	81
8815406	Beauchamps High School	77
8815407	The Bromfords School	86
8815412	The Rickstones School	76
8815453	The Harwich School—a language college	120
8825414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	81
8825465	St Bernard's High School and Arts College	117
8864059	Swadelands School	85
8864065	Holmesdale Technology College	64
8864091	The Community College Whitstable	105
8864172	Hartsdown Technology College	117
8864196	The Towers School	272
8864207	Castle Community College	52
8864219	Hextable School	91
8864242	The Abbey School	111
8865410	Aylesford School—sports college	89
8865417	Minster College	195
8865419	Angley School—a sports college	134
8865421	The Canterbury High School	198
8865425	The Malling School	13
8865448	Herne Bay High School	196
8865456	Northfleet Technology College	79
8865466	Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	159
8874075	The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School	176
8874076	Chapter School	212
8874167	Walderslade Girls' School	76
8875429	Chatham Grammar School for Girls	254
8884408	Fleetwood Sports College	2
8914008	Kirkby College	52
8914106	Wheldon School and Sports College	81
8914462	Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College	99
8926905	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	226
9094104	Netherhall School	95
9095400	Kirkbie Kendal School	175
9095408	North Cumbria Technology College	31
9164039	Vale of Berkeley College	7
9194029	Adeyfield School	101
9194111	Westfield Community Technology College	136
9194116	Marriotts School	68

Maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A-level Geography in 2006-07

		Number of 16-18 year olds[1]
9194117	The Sele School	61
9194154	Onslow St Audrey's School	54
9195409	Bushey Hall School	122
9195411	Mount Grace School	160
9195427	Hockerill Anglo-European College	162
9254036	The City of Lincoln Community College	112
9254056	Cordeaux School	74
9254609	St Clements College	103
9255414	Joseph Ruston Technology College	11
9255423	The Giles School	136
9264048	Charles Burrell High School	77
9264067	Heartsease High School	43
9284067	Weston Favell School	185
9284103	Unity College	78
9284703	Thomas Becket Catholic School	107
9314074	Peers School	47
9314117	Oxford Community School	193
9314145	St Gregory the Great VA Catholic Secondary School	131
9334274	Holyrood Community School	124
9354038	Orwell High School	107
9354066	The Denes High School	137
9354095	Westbourne Sports College	173
9364028	Christ's College, Guilford	67
9364763	The Bishop Wand Church of England School	102
9365411	St Paul's Catholic College	109
9374103	Nicholas Chamberlaine Technology College	184
9374192	Campion School and Community College	78
9384030	Ifield Community College	184
9384044	Thomas Bennett Community College	173

[1] Age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006.

Ofsted: Standards

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the oral evidence given by the Chief Executive of Ofsted to the Children, Schools and Families Committee on 10 December, HC 70-i, if his Department will review the performance of Ofsted senior management and make changes where appropriate. [244065]

Jim Knight: Ofsted is a non-ministerial Government Department. Performance management of the chief inspector is the responsibility of the Ofsted Board and in particular the chairman. The performance of other Ofsted senior managers is the responsibility of the chief inspector.

Pre-school Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to improve children's pre-school cognitive development in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997. [242368]

Beverley Hughes: In 1998 the Government published Desirable Learning Outcomes that included goals for learning (including on early literacy, numeracy and the development of personal and social skills) for children by the time they entered compulsory education. In 2000, the Qualification and Curriculum Authority published Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, which contains six areas of learning, 69 Early Learning Goals, and stepping stones to achieve them for children aged three to five year. For younger children "Birth to three matters" was published in 2002. It focuses on child development, and includes four themes: a Strong Child, a Skilful Communicator, a Competent Learner and a Healthy Child.

In September this year the Government published the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which brought together the previous early learning frameworks and sets quality standards for learning (including cognitive development) and care for all settings caring for children aged birth to five.

In the north-east the National Strategies have provided support to local authorities and developed a set of materials to help practitioners to support children's social development through "Social and Emotional Aspects of Development" (SEAD) programme.

The Government have also introduced the "Every Child a Talker" (ECAT) programme—which will give practitioners easier access to training and materials so that they are better equipped to identify and support children's early language needs and development. In addition we have introduced the "Communication, Language and Literacy Development" (CLLD) programme which aims to support practitioners with children's early reading, development of speaking and listening skills and to embed phonic work within a broad and rich language curriculum. The NE region has eight out of 12 local authorities in the first wave of the ECAT programme and 12 are in the CLLD programme.

Primary Education

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of primary schools in England in *(a)* hamlets and isolated settings, *(b)* villages, *(c)* towns and fringe settlements and *(d)* settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [243184]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Number of primary schools by urban rural classification

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling	695	693	687	685	681
Village	2,765	2,758	2,753	2,741	2,727
Town and Fringe	1,864	1,863	1,857	1,849	1,840
Urban >10,000	12,443	12,331	12,209	12,088	11,959
Total	17,767	17,645	17,506	17,363	17,207

Source: School Census.

School Leaving: Qualifications

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in *(a)* Wiltshire, *(b)* London and *(c)* England reached the end of compulsory schooling without a qualification in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [243778]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table. The data are taken from the last five years' "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England" Statistical First Release, the latest of which can be found online at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000815/index.shtml.

Proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving no GCSE or equivalent passes

	2004[1]	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[4]
Wiltshire[2]	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.3
London[2]	4.2	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.9
England[3]	4.2	2.6	2.2	1.1	1.4

[1] 2004 figures include pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

[2] Figures for Wiltshire and London include pupils in local authority maintained schools only.

[3] Figures for England include all schools.

[4] Provisional

Schools: Co-operation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources his Department makes available to support school partnerships and collaborations; and if he will make a statement. [241626]

Jim Knight: The Department supports a number of school partnerships and collaborations. The following table details the key policies which either promote or leverage collaborative working. It includes the cost of those programmes last year in terms of the financial resources either passed directly to schools or LAs (in part or in full) to support partnership working, or the cost of contracts which provide support to schools or LAs (in part or in full) for partnership working. Likewise, it details the financial resources that the Department expects to make available this year to schools or LAs (in part or in full) to support partnership working, or the expected cost of contracts the Department will make available (in part or in full) to support schools or LAs to work in partnership.

Our vision of 21st century schools is ambitious. No single school working alone will be able to deliver its key components. To improve the lives of children, young people, families and the wider local community, schools will need to work in partnership with children and young people; with parents; with other schools and colleges; with early years providers; and with wider services. Our consultation paper published yesterday considers the 21st century school system and how we can ensure deeper, more consistent and more effective partnership working and collaborations.

Partnership policy	*Purpose*	*Resources available in 2007-08*	*Resources available in 2008-09*
0-7 Partnerships	The Children's Plan (paragraph 4.50) announced a new initiative to pilot partnership working between schools, Sure Start Children's Centres, early years and childcare providers and the health service across the 0-7 age range. The aims of the 0-7 Partnerships pilots are to develop and assess different models of partnership and joint working to see how they can improve children's early experiences. These have a huge impact on their later development and achievement and can have an influence on what they do and how they behave throughout their lives. The pilots are designed to: raise quality; improve links between settings and services; improve transition over time (including from pre-school settings into Reception, and from Reception into Year 1); test out new innovative approaches to partnership working.	n/a	10 pilots, at least one for every English region, were selected in summer 2008. £2 million has been made available for 2008/9 (out of £10m total funding for the three years 2008-11).
Diploma Consortia	Diploma consortia are the groups of partners and providers who come together to deliver one or more of the new Diploma lines. A Diploma consortium has responsibility for: Ensuring member institutions collaborate effectively to deliver the Diploma; Providing Information Advice Guidance through peer advice and mentoring, opportunities for "tasters" and other "experiential" learning, building on commitments in the Children's Plan; Marketing to young people, parents and carers; Preparing workforce and deploying them effectively; and		Delivering particular lines of learning including ensuring facilities are fit for purpose and securing employers' involvement;

Partnership policy	*Purpose*	*Resources available in 2007-08*	*Resources available in 2008-09*
	Logistical planning of learner numbers, timetabling and transport.		
14-19 Partnerships	14-19 Partnerships Delivery of 14-19 education requires a collaborative approach and the involvement of several partners. There is therefore a 14-19 Partnership of some form in every area. The 14-19 Partnership has a strategic role in:	£14.5 million distributed to LAs as 14-19 flexible funding. Only some of this will be spent on partnership working at the LA's discretion.	Flexible funding: £14.5 million. This will be added to the area based grant in 2008/09. Again only part of this will be spent on partnership work and that will be at the LA's discretion.
	agreeing the local vision for 14-19 that is consistent with the wider Sustainable Community Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan and Local Area Agreement;		
	developing and articulating strategies for the full range of 14-19 priorities; and		
	supporting Diploma consortia so that they are ready to deliver.		
Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships	In Nov. 2004 the Sec. of State signalled an expectation that all secondary schools (including academies, special schools and PRUs) would be working together in partnerships to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence by Sept 2007. The partnerships are based on the idea that schools will be able to deal more effectively with challenging pupils if they can share expertise, resources and facilities for that purpose. Schools partnerships are voluntary, typically comprising 6-10 secondary schools, although primary and middle schools can join. Schools and local authorities have been encouraged to work in partnership through a series of Ministerial letters, and supported via several rounds of regional workshops, on-line guidance, and extensive support from the National Strategies. No additional funding available from the Dept. for partnership working. These partnerships to be made mandatory under the Children, Skills and Learning Bill. Safer School Partnerships - a voluntary arrangement between schools, police and other agencies. No DCSF or Home Office programme budget but some limited, pump-priming support available to some LAs in this FY.	n/a	n/a
Community Cohesion School Linking	The Government investment in the Schools Linking Network will provide:		
	A new national website - www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk —to allow all schools in England to seek a linking partner on-line, with support from the Schools Linking Network. The website will also hold resources and training materials.	£125.7k	£731k
	Pilot projects in 40 local authorities to facilitate school linking by providing support and training, including guidance, materials and training for local authority personnel, teachers and other staff embarking on a linking project.		

Partnership policy	*Purpose*	*Resources available in 2007-08*	*Resources available in 2008-09*
Extended Schools	A key way of delivering Every Child Matters, an extended school works with local providers, agencies (and in many cases other schools) to provide access to a core offer of extended services: a varied range of activities including study support activities for primary and secondary schools; childcare 8am-6pm, all year round for primary schools; parenting and family support; swift and easy access to specialist services such as speech therapy; community use of facilities including adult and family learning and ICT—these will often be provided beyond the school day but not necessarily by teachers or on the school site. In 2008-09 to 2010-11 a total of £1.3 billion of funding will be made available. This funding is to support the delivery of the extended schools core offer and not just to help schools work in partnership together.	£238 million	£297.5 million
Independent School/State School Partnership	The Independent/State Schools Partnerships Scheme aims to break down barriers between the independent and state school sectors, share expertise and good practice, widen educational opportunities, and raise standards in education. The focus of the scheme is on gifted and talented pupils with the aim of increasing the numbers of children applying for university places from communities where educational aspirations are traditionally low. In particular, priority will be given to proposals that aim to increase the uptake of, and attainment in, maths, science and modern foreign languages.	£1 million	£1.5 million (approx)
Academy Federations	The Academy Federation pathfinder, established in 2007, is a pilot project involving 10 federations, in which a low attaining school becomes an Academy and is federated with a strong school, which becomes either an Academy or a Trust school. Funding of up to £300,000 per scheme is available for the strong school to undertake work to support the partner school to become an Academy. The capacity funding is integrated into the funding normally made available for academy projects prior to opening, and is determined on a case by case basis.	n/a	Up to £300,000 per project
London Performance Collaborative	The London Performance Collaborative is a group of London secondary schools working together to raise pupil's attainment.	£415,000	£19,545
London Primary Schools Working in Partnership	Small groups of schools working together on a particular theme, such as attainment in mathematics or English.	none	Up to £450,000
Leading Edge	The Leading Edge Partnership programme enables groups of schools to work together to improve pupil outcomes at key stages 3 and 4, particularly amongst the lowest attaining schools in the partnership. Leading Edge Schools get additional funding of between £60,000 and £90,000 (depending on pupil numbers) p.a. and there is also funding for managing the Programme.	£12.5 million paid to Leading Edge Schools. £925,000 was the cost of managing the Programme (via a contract).	£13.4 million expected to be paid to Leading Edge Schools. £925,000 expected cost of managing the Programme (via a contract)

Partnership policy	*Purpose*	*Resources available in 2007-08*	*Resources available in 2008-09*
Trust Schools	Trust Schools work with partners from the private, voluntary and public sectors. Many Trust Schools share their Trust with other schools, and so it becomes a forum for school-to-school partnership working. The very first Trust Schools were provided with up to £15,000 as pathfinder support. Schools looking to acquire a Trust are currently able to access up to £10,000 support.	The total money given directly to schools looking to acquire a Trust was £1.25 million. The Department contracted advice and support for Early Adopters from the TFSP (i.e. a consortium of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Youth Sports Trust and FASNA) at a cost of £1,751,098. Successful applications from local authorities to the Standards and Diversity Fund to support collaborations (Federations and Trust) totalled £14.3 million.	The contract with the TFSP consortium to provide advice and support to schools looking to acquire trust status is expected to cost £3.286 million in 08-09. The Department expects to make up to £2.47 million available to support Trust School projects this year. Further capital funding is available via the Standards and Diversity Fund from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support federations and Trust school proposals.
Federations	Schools in a federation operate through a single shared governing body, or have joint committees of their governing bodies. The federation model itself can generate financial savings and efficiencies for schools and all schools have the flexibility in their budgets to invest in collaboration. Working together through formal shared governance structures enables schools to raise standards and maintain local provision by sharing resources, staff, expertise, and facilities. The variety of models offered by federation makes it adaptable to suit individual contexts, and local needs and objectives. There is some capital funding available to support federations via the Standards and Diversity Fund (targeted capital funding)	Successful applications from local authorities to the Standards and Diversity Fund in 2007-08 to support federations and Trust school capital proposals totalled £14.3 million.	£120,000 via the National College for School Leadership to support federation schools working with a shared School Business Manager. Further capital funding is available via the Standards and Diversity Fund from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support federations and Trust school proposals. The department will hold conferences for rural primary schools to provide an opportunity for schools to find out more about federation and to learn from the experiences of others. The Department will also publish: new simplified guidance to help schools to form a federation; new case studies of federations between schools in rural areas to share best practice and to demonstrate the potential efficiencies and other benefits; reports from research currently being undertaken with clusters of schools to identify the benefits that closer collaborative working and pooling of resources would generate for children and staff. This research will provide clear examples to schools which will support governors and heads as they consider close partnership working.
Education Improvement Partnerships	In Education Improvement Partnerships, schools collaborate to deliver services that would usually be delivered by their Local Authority. Where the LA has funding for the delivery of these services they may decide, locally, to devolve this funding to the schools. The Department keeps no record of this.	n/a	n/a

Science: GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained schools were entered for individual science GCSE examinations in *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* physics in each year since 1992. [241892]

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* maintained, *(b)* specialist science, *(c)* grammar and *(d)* independent schools offered triple science GCSE courses in physics, chemistry and biology in each year since 1992. [240800]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on which subjects are offered by schools. However, the Department aims to encourage all schools to make triple science available to all pupils who could benefit. The Learning and Skills Network is providing practical support and guidance to schools on triple science.

Specifically, by September 2008 all pupils achieving at least level 6+ at key stage 3 will be entitled to study triple science GCSE, for example through collaborative arrangements with other schools, further education colleges and universities; and all specialist science schools will offer triple science at least to all pupils achieving level 6+ at the end of key stage 3.

Furthermore, we will expect all engineering and technology colleges to offer triple science from September 2009; and all mathematics and computing colleges to offer triple science from September 2010.

Social Services: Complaints

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints were made against children's social services departments in West Chelmsford constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [244182]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. However, local authorities are required to keep a record of:

each representation/complaint received;

the outcome of each, that is, the decisions made in response to the representation/complaint and any action to be taken; and

whether there was compliance with the time limits.

Each local authority must produce an annual report drawing on this information. This report should not contain personal information that is identifiable about any individual complainant.

Teachers: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 187-88W, on teachers: pay, how many staff in local authority maintained schools were employed as *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2007-08 in (A) Vale of York constituency and (B) England. [244588]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff employed in local authority maintained schools in the Vale of York constituency and England, January 1997 and 2008.

Full-time equivalent teachers[1], teaching assistants[2] and support staff[3] in local authority maintained schools—years: 1997 and 2008, coverage: Vale of York constituency and England

	January	
	1997	*2008*
Vale of York constituency		
Teachers[4]	660	770
Teaching assistants[4]	60	300
Support staff[3, 4]	150	480
England		
Teachers[5]	399,180	434,870
Teaching assistants[4]	60,580	175,660
Support staff[3, 4]	133,480	322,400

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] 'Teaching assistants' include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[3] Includes teaching assistants.
[4] Source: School Census.
[5] Source: Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g.

Notes:

1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 17 December 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much has been spent on *(a)* staff Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the House of Commons in the last three years. [243729]

Nick Harvey: The amounts spent in the last three years have been:

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Christmas parties	2,704	3,835	3,661
Staff entertainment	5,574	1,513	7,149

SCOTLAND

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243726]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 808-09W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne).

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243564]

Ann McKechin: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244386]

Ann McKechin: Staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and the Office reimburses those Departments for the costs involved. The Office does not maintain a record of the hourly pay for temporary or permanent staff; such information is the responsibility of the parent Departments.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244024]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice, who have read the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for departmental policies and a report will follow on it in due course.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Construction

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects construction of the two new aircraft carriers to commence. [244194]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Construction is already under way, and will continue with the first cut of steel in the main shipyards of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance scheduled for 2009.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average length of time a *(a)* Royal Marine Officer and *(b)* Royal Marine spent away from home over the latest 30-month period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [243670]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average number of days that Royal Marine individuals are recorded as being separated from where they are based over the last 30 months from 1 May 2006 to 31 October 2008 is as follows:

	Days
Royal Marine Officers	154
Royal Marine Other Ranks	169

Departmental Research

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many research contracts his Department placed with UK universities and other academic research centres in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value of each was. [244446]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A breakdown of research contracts placed with UK universities and other academic research centres is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first Future Surface Combatant will enter service. [243501]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those vessels for which the main investment decision has been taken. The Future Surface Combatant programme has not yet reached this stage. However, on current plans, we expect the first vessel to enter service around the end of the next decade.

Harrier Aircraft

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service date will be for the aircraft comprising the Joint Harrier Force. [243498]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The planned out-of-service date for the Harrier aircraft is 2018.

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, whether a deadline for disclosing the target offtake has been set. [244617]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do not expect to make any commitments in this respect until operational test and evaluation of JSF is complete in 2014.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, when he expects the through life cost of the Joint Strike Fighter programme to be established. [244619]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Through life costs will not be established until the JSF support solution is sufficiently mature, and will be dependent on the number of aircraft the UK purchases to meet its defence needs. We do not expect to make any commitments in this respect until operational test and evaluation of JSF is complete.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when each Trafalgar Class submarine will go out of service. [243500]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Trafalgar	2009
HMS Turbulent	2011
HMS Tireless	2013
HMS Torbay	2015
HMS Trenchant	2017
HMS Talent	2019
HMS Triumph	2022

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* HMS Queen Elizabeth and *(b)* HMS Prince of Wales will enter service. [243497]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-service dates (ISD) declared at the time of the project main gate were 2014 for HMS Queen Elizabeth and 2016 for HMS Prince of Wales.

As stated in the written ministerial statement issued on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, it is likely that the in-service dates of the new carriers will be delayed by one to two years.

We are in the process of agreeing revised ISDs for the two new carriers with our industrial partners.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when each *(a)* Type 22 and *(b)* Type 23 frigate will go out of service. [243499]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 678W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2018 World Cup Bid Board

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has given on cross-party working to the 2018 World Cup Bid Board; what commitments he has received from attendees at board meetings on abiding by such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [244321]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Cross-party support for the 2018 World cup bid is very important. Officials at my Department have had discussions with the interim bid team about how best to ensure all political parties are kept informed of progress with the bid. England 2018 Ltd. is in the process of recruiting a director of government liaison, whose key responsibilities include one to

> "Ensure all relevant Party Leaders ... are regularly briefed on the progress of the Bid."

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what 2018 World Cup Bid Board meetings *(a)* have been held and *(b)* are scheduled; and what plans he has to publish the minutes of each meeting. [244322]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Meetings of the bid company, England 2018 Ltd., board and publication of their minutes are a matter for the company itself. I have attended one board meeting, on 6 November 2008, and have meetings in my diary on a monthly basis until May.

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the money spent by *(a)* Arts Council England and *(b)* Sport England on media monitoring services came from National Lottery income in each of the last three years. [240953]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Arts Council England inform us that media monitoring costs are drawn from their media relations budget, which is sourced from Managed Funds and drawn from Exchequer funding.

Sport England use a general formula for their administration overheads which means that 45 per cent. of funding is provided from Exchequer funding and 55 per cent. from lottery sources.

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many more Convergence Think Tank seminars he expects to take place. [240944]

Andy Burnham: None. As announced on 17 October 2008, the Convergence Think Tank's work, together with other related initiatives, will now be taken forward as part of the Digital Britain Report.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244607]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has implemented a series of initiatives to manage and reduce our energy wastage. These have included new boilers, chillers, air handling units, lighting and fan coil units.

The Department achieved accreditation under the Carbon Trust Energy Efficiency Accreditation scheme in December 2007. The scheme recognises organisations' efforts in measuring, managing and reducing its energy usage.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244396]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport all permanent staff are paid an annual salary rather than at an hourly rate.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the research on digital set-top boxes commissioned by his Department during the last three years. [242419]

Andy Burnham: DCMS recently commissioned research on possible enhancements to set-top boxes offered under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. We do not plan to publish the report for reasons of commercial confidentiality and policy development.

English Heritage: Historic Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many English Heritage properties there were in each region in each of the last five years. [242411]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the following table. The figures include all properties open to the public, including those managed under local management agreements.

	London	*South East*	*East of England*	*South West*	*West Midlands*	*East Midlands*	*Yorkshire*	*North West*	*North East*	*Total*
2004	60	65	50	99	29	24	32	35	43	437
2005	60	67	50	99	29	25	31	36	43	440
2006	60	67	50	98	29	24	32	35	43	438
2007	60	66	49	97	29	24	32	36	41	434
2008	60	66	49	97	29	24	32	36	41	434

Historic Buildings: Conservation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many buildings or monuments were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the At Risk Register in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [242394]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the following tables. The register was established in 1998, but a breakdown of the figures by region is only available from 1999.

Register	East Midlands		East of England		London		North East		North West	
	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added
1999	11	10	4	21	7	12	6	20	9	21
2000	13	6	16	15	14	12	10	19	6	9
2001	9	13	3	8	11	14	14	9	9	6
2002	12	6	5	6	15	7	11	3	8	11
2003	12	7	10	7	12	7	6	7	11	6
2004	7	4	10	4	7	8	10	8	8	4
2005	6	6	10	10	13	6	8	6	11	4
2006	5	12	9	6	12	9	10	10	6	2
2007	3	10	9	17	5	7	7	11	11	5

Register	South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and Humber	
	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added	Entries removed	Entries added
1999	12	10	19	23	17	11	23	13
2000	12	13	13	8	11	10	14	10
2001	17	13	27	12	10	12	14	7
2002	22	16	10	25	14	16	17	8
2003	11	9	11	12	9	9	12	2
2004	10	5	18	12	7	10	14	3
2005	24	3	10	7	10	17	2	9
2006	13	2	9	7	16	2	8	2
2007	5	3	2	7	10	5	5	4

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many historic buildings and monuments are on the At Risk Register, broken down by region. [242395]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the following table.

Region	Number of Grade I & II* listed building entries	Number of structural scheduled monument entries	Total number of entries on the register
East Midlands	134	13	147
East of England	92	31	123
London	84	5	89
North East	84	39	123
North West	103	32	135
South East	104	65	169
South West	145	17	162
West Midlands	130	42	172
Yorkshire and Humber	101	21	122
Total	977	265	1,242

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings he and ministerial colleagues have had with Treasury Ministers and officials on the Tote since April 2008. [242890]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had a number of meetings on the Tote since April 2008 at which HM Treasury has been represented.

Music: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government have taken to promote music for young people. [243083]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The Government promote music for youth through the Department for Children, Schools and Families' package of funding for music education, which was announced in November last year. This totals £332 million over three years and includes investment in singing, new instruments and free music lessons.

The Music Mentoring programme, which Youth Music leads on, also seeks to engage young people through a mentoring programme linked to music-making activity and has been allocated £333,000 per year by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport until 2011.

Ports: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has commissioned on the impressions made by UK ports of entry on foreign visitors. [242588]

Barbara Follett: Welcome is one of the key strands of 'Winning' the tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond. In addition, the Welcome to Britain initiative has identified that improvements to our welcome are needed at ports of entry. VisitBritain, in partnership with England's regional development agencies and other members of the Welcome to Britain Steering Group, are currently running a pilot programme at Bristol airport, Manchester airport and Portsmouth port which focuses on improving the welcome at ports of entry. The pilot will be completed in early 2009, with the intention to roll out the scheme further.

Also, VisitBritain is measuring customer satisfaction through additional questions, on the topic of welcome, in the Civil Aviation Authority's international passenger survey. The survey, aimed at international passengers departing from major airports, is in its third wave, with a year end set of results due at the end of April 2009.

European Capital of Culture: Liverpool

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to publicise in *(a)* London and *(b)* other places cultural events taking place in Liverpool to mark its year as European Capital of Culture; and if he will make a statement. [243021]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has taken many steps to publicise in London and elsewhere cultural events taking place in Liverpool to mark its year as European Capital of Culture. These include: the Liverpool 08 logo on all departmental correspondence; a link to information about the Capital of Culture on the homepage of the Department's website; sending quarterly events guides to all Cabinet Ministers; hosting conferences in Liverpool; referring to Liverpool's status and success in ministerial speeches; and frequent visits by the Secretary of State to Liverpool on DCMS business.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Community Development

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which social action projects he has visited in the last 12 months. [243202]

Mr. Woodward: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Northern Ireland and I make various visits as appropriate to organisations involved in areas associated with social and community activity, mainly in the criminal justice sector. Since devolution the Department for Social Development has assumed responsibility for the majority of organisations involved in social action activities.

Crime Prevention: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what projects have been undertaken by each of the community safety partnerships in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [242932]

Paul Goggins: Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have delivered in excess of 450 local projects in 2007-08 and so far in this financial year (2008-09). Information is not held in a way that can identify projects undertaken only in the last 12 months.

The Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit (CSU) provided £2 million for local projects in the 2007-08 financial year and has allocated £2.025 million for the 2008-09 financial year. Under the terms and conditions of funding set out by CSU all projects must attract a minimum of 20 per cent. match funding for the projects delivered.

I have arranged for a list to be placed in the Library detailing all projects delivered in each CSP area for the 2007-09 financial years, how much these cost and a brief description of each.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental consultants, how many external consultants his Department has used in the last 12 months. [243394]

Mr. Woodward: My Department including agencies and Executive non-departmental public bodies has used 102 external consultants in the last 12 months.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental consultants, for how long each of the external consultants has worked for his Department. [243396]

Mr. Woodward: Information is not held centrally on how long each of the external consultants has worked for my Department and to provide this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on official visits, on which dates he has been in Northern Ireland on official visits in the last 12 months. [243509]

Mr. Woodward: As Secretary of State for Northern Ireland I make frequent visits to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on official visits, for how many nights he has stayed in *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [243511]

Mr. Woodward: The number of days and overnight stays I have spent in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

	Day	*Overnight*
October 2007	14	5
November 2007	8	2
December 2007	14	8
January 2008	7	2
February 2008	8	2
March 2008	10	6
April 2008	4	3
May 2008	19	9
June 2008	9	4
July 2008	4	3
August 2008	1	0
September 2008	9	5
October 2008	9	4
November 2008	10	3

The hon. Gentleman will be aware the offices of the Secretary of State are in Belfast and in London; Northern Ireland Office business is conducted in both places. The Secretary of State does not undertake 'visits' to his own office in Northern Ireland.

Details of visits made by Cabinet Ministers outside the United Kingdom are published annually by the Cabinet Office. Copies are available in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1169W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* expected cost was at the outset of each project. [242153]

Paul Goggins: The additional information requested is provided in the following table.

Project name	*Original planned completion date*	*Original estimated cost (£ million)*
Causeway Programme	December 2006	42.7
Prisoner Record Information System (PRISM)—Technical Refresh	March 2010	1.3

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on departmental ICT, what the original cost estimates were for the projects listed. [243508]

Paul Goggins: The additional information requested is provided in the following table.

Project name	*Original estimated cost (£ million)*
Causeway Programme	42.7
Prisoner Record Information System (PRISM)—Technical Refresh	1.3

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental manpower, what the responsibilities are of the people employed by his Department who are not civil servants. [243527]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office employs 16.5 people who are not civil servants (measured in full-time equivalents). Of these, 13.5 full-time equivalent staff are employed to undertake duties within the State Pathologist's Office. The remaining staff are employed in the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Public Prosecution Service.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on official visits, on which dates he *(a)* has held meetings with the Irish Government and *(b)* has been in the Republic of Ireland on official business in the last 12 months. [243510]

Mr. Woodward: In the course of my duties, I am in regular contact with the Irish Government.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [242463]

Mr. Woodward: Over the last three years the Northern Ireland Office's Procurement Unit has identified six tenders that were cancelled prior to award of contract.

In respect of these tenders, there would have been abortive cost in advertising the tender and staff time involved in work on the tender process up to the point of cancellation. In one instance, where the cancellation was subsequently challenged, there were legal costs involved in defending the challenge (which may be recoverable).

We do not attribute staff costs to individual procurements and therefore cannot determine a cost for this element if the tender process is cancelled prior to contract award.

Specific costs that we can attribute over the last three years are as follows:

	£
Advertising costs (based on an average of £550 per tender)	3,300
Legal costs charged to date (which may be recoverable)	6,765

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242604]

Mr. Woodward: 28 November 2008.

Departmental Television

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, how much his Department spent on licence fees in the last 12 months. [243452]

Mr. Woodward: The amount spent on television licence fees for the Department in the financial year 2007-08 excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, was £3,248.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, which companies provided the digital television services. [243454]

Mr. Woodward: The companies which provided the digital television services in the answer given of 24 November 2008, were NTL/Virgin Media and Sky.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 882W, on departmental travel, what the travel expenditure was of each of his Executive non-departmental public bodies in the last 12 months; and how many members of staff of such bodies travelled abroad on official business in that period. [243238]

Mr. Woodward: This is an operational matter for each of the Northern Ireland Office's Executive non-departmental bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives. Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 departmental report at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/
northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf

Departmental Vacancies

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vacancies there are in his Department at *(a)* administrative officer, *(b)* executive officer I, *(c)* executive officer II and *(d)* staff officer grades, broken down by location. [244219]

Mr. Woodward: Within the Northern Ireland Office, grade D1 is equivalent to administrative officer and grade B2 is equivalent to staff officer. Grade C is equivalent to executive officer I and executive officer II. The following table sets out the vacancies for these grades, as reported by business areas in November 2008, broken down by location.

Grade	*Location*	*Vacancies*
Grade D1	Belfast	9
	Stormont Estate	4
	Carrickfergus	2
	Lisburn	2
	Ballymena	1
	Foyle	1
Total		19
Grade C	Belfast	7
	Stormont Estate	1
	Ballymena	1
Total		9
Grade B2		
	Belfast	5
	Carrickfergus	2
	Stormont Estate	2
Total		9

Economic Situation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1210W, on the economic situation, on which dates he has held meetings with business representatives in the last 12 months. [243447]

Mr. Woodward: As the hon. Gentleman should be aware, economic issues are largely devolved in Northern Ireland. However, where appropriate, in the course of my duties I have had meetings with business representatives. The detail of some of these meetings are commercially confidential and it would not be appropriate for me to disclose any details.

European Union

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what official visits to Brussels he plans to make in the next 12 months. [243502]

Mr. Woodward: Meetings with officials and elected representatives in Brussels will take place as and when necessary.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1319W, on the Northern Ireland Assembly, on which days he had official meetings with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly in the last 12 months. [243250]

Mr. Woodward: The meetings I have had with members of the Northern Ireland Administration have been and continue to be related to the Government's efforts to complete devolution in Northern Ireland. To that end, it would not be appropriate to discuss details of same. These meetings take place by arrangement any day of the week.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the First Minister and *(b)* the Deputy First Minister on Northern Ireland's contribution to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. [243203]

Mr. Woodward: I have not had any discussions with the First Minister or Deputy First Minister about the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243204]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has not, at this stage, developed plans on how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Religion

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on religion (1) with the leaders of which denominations he has had official meetings in the last 12 months; [243378]

(2) on which days he had official meetings with church leaders in the last 12 months. [243379]

Mr. Woodward: I meet with leaders of all of Northern Ireland's main Churches as appropriate.

USA

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on the USA, how many meetings he has had with members of the incoming US Administration; [243392]

(2) what meetings he has had with officials of the US Administration in the last 12 months. [243506]

Mr. Woodward: The United States has played and continues to play a critical role in the political process, further progress towards the devolution of policing and justice, and investment in Northern Ireland. Successive Secretaries of State have worked closely with the United States and maintained regular contact to discuss policy. I continue this policy.

TRANSPORT

A21: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the proposed timetable is for improvements to the A21; and if he will make a statement. [243599]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* As advised in the Secretary of State's announcement on 16 July 2008, the proposed timetable for improvements to the A21 are:

A21 Tonbridge to Pembury dualling: 2012-13;

A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement: 2012-13.

This timetable is subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes, the availability of funding, and confirmation of priorities from the current South East England Regional Authority's Regional Funding Allocation advice refresh process.

The Highways Agency is investigating the potential for an earlier start of works in 2011-12 for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury scheme.

There are no dates for the start of works on other A21 schemes.

A46: Nottinghamshire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of traffic on the A46 in Nottinghamshire was accounted for by heavy goods vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [243958]

Paul Clark: In 2007 heavy goods vehicles accounted for about 10 per cent. of traffic on the A46 in Nottinghamshire.

Traffic data for individual motorways and 'A' roads for 1999 to 2007 are available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix

Airports: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when and by what means he plans to take forward the proposals set out by his Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his speech at the Airport Policing Conference on 12 November 2008. [243948]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have announced our intention to include measures on enhancing airport security in the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill which will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Aviation: Fuels

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on developing alternative fuels for aircraft. [243410]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None specifically on alternative fuels for aircraft but there are two small projects of interest: firstly, earlier this year the Department commissioned a study on carbon reduction options for domestic aviation. We expect to publish this shortly. Additionally the OMEGA project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFC) has a project investigating the possibilities and barriers for alternative fuels.

We are aware of the US CAAFI (Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative) and various commercial trials which we are following with interest.

Biofuels

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 67WS, on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on UK biofuel producers of correcting the discrepancy in the 2007 Order *(a)* for the current obligation period and *(b)* for the 2009-10 obligation period; [242582]

(2) whether Ministers or officials from the Department met representatives of biofuel producers to discuss the Government's response to the discrepancy in the 2007 Order; [242583]

(3) whether Ministers or officials from the Department met representatives of obligated suppliers to discuss the Government's response to the discrepancy in the 2007 Order; [242584]

(4) what communications he has had with the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments on correcting the discrepancy in the 2007 Order. [242741]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are currently consulting on proposals for amending the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (2007 No. 3072) to rectify the discrepancy issue by extending the definition of "relevant hydrocarbon oil". The Department wrote to stakeholders on 13 November 2008 to inform them of proposals to rectify the discrepancy for the next obligation year (2009-10). Due to the constraints of the primary legal powers the Department is not proposing to deal retrospectively with this issue for the current obligation year (2008-09).

As a result of the discrepancy the Renewable Fuels Agency estimates that around half of the fossil fuel supplied may not be taken into account in calculating suppliers' renewable transport obligations. The extent of any shortfall in biofuel supplied will not be known until the end of the obligation year.

Following the identification of the discrepancy the Government informed both obligated and biofuel suppliers about this issue. Officials within the Department for Transport are continuing to engage with these suppliers about the effects of the discrepancy and the proposed solution. The draft amendment order will be subject to the affirmative procedure and the proposal to deal with the discrepancy will be considered by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments in due course.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the additional carbon dioxide emissions which would result from implementation of the European Parliament's proposal to limit emissions from new cars to 120g of carbon dioxide for every kilometre travelled by 2012 if it were to be phased in over three years; and whether eco-innovations are to be included in calculations of progress towards achieving the target limit. [242897]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It should be noted that new car carbon dioxide emissions will need to be 130 g/km on average (rather than it being a limit), with the further 10 g/km being delivered from a range of other measures. The phased-in targets (as agreed on 1 December between the European Commission, the European Parliament lead negotiators and the French presidency) still represent a real challenge for industry and will require a significant increase in the rate of fuel efficiency improvements over and above those already seen under the carbon dioxide voluntary agreements. Our analysis shows that there is unlikely to be any difference in overall carbon dioxide savings between this system and the original Commission's proposal which had lower penalties for non-compliance in earlier years.

Eco-innovations, if properly implemented, will similarly not lead to a change in the overall carbon dioxide emissions from the regulation. Any reduction in g/km carbon dioxide savings measured by the test cycle will need to be matched by additional g/km carbon dioxide savings from the eco-innovations.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue generated by Dartford Crossing tolls has been spent on transport infrastructure projects in the surrounding area in the last five years. [244064]

Paul Clark: Since 2003, when the charging scheme was introduced at the Dartford Crossing, the Department for Transport has made available between £1.75 million and £2 million per year to Thurrock council and Kent county council to help deliver local transport projects.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 831-33W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost was of each of the projects at their outset. [242168]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) is not undertaking any IT projects.

The Department for Transport does not hold centrally collected records on IT projects, which are managed locally. The tables therefore show available information on major projects under way within DFT Central and each of its agencies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to accelerate spending through existing maintenance contracts in line with the Government's plans to increase infrastructure spending. [243802]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: The Highways Agency has been asked to review the potential for accelerating its investment and renewals activity in order to deliver an economic stimulus. The review of priorities is under way and covers major construction projects as well as maintenance activity. Existing contracts are designed to manage a flexible workload to meet such variations.

The management of maintenance works for local roads is a matter for each local highway authority. My Department provided funding of £2.1 billion to local authorities, in England outside London, as part of the 2007 Local Transport Plan settlement for capital highway maintenance for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Local authorities have discretion on how to spend this funding. This certainty of funding allows authorities to plan their maintenance to match their local priorities. Funding for local roads in London is a matter for the Mayor.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242110]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies' employment of *(a)* paid work experience or internship placements and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years is shown in the following table:

The Highways Agency maintains no central record of the number of students that have been placed in voluntary work experience.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Driving Standards Agency can provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Department for Transport work experience and internship placements, last three calendar years

Work Experience or Internship	Number of participants	Paid/unpaid	If paid, what weekly wage	Job role and business area	Weekly hours	Calendar year	In full time education	Individual completed set period
Internship	8	Yes	[1]—	Administrative	36	2006	Yes	Yes
Internship	1	Yes	£290	Variety for experience	37	2006	Yes	Yes
Internship	7	Yes	[1]—	Administrative	36	2007	Yes	Yes
Internship	2	No	n/a	IT Support	37	2007	Yes	Yes
Internship	2	Yes	[1]—	Administrative	36	2008	Yes	Yes
Internship	2	No	n/a	IT Support	37	2008	Yes	Yes
Work experience	15	No	n/a	Administrative	37	2006	Yes	Yes
Work experience	1	No	n/a	Sorting mail	15	2007	Yes	Yes
Work Experience	1	No	n/a	Administrative	35	2007	Yes	Yes
Work experience	18	No	n/a	Administrative	37	2007	Yes	Yes
Work experience	1	No	n/a	Sorting mail	15	2008	Yes	Yes
Work experience	21	No	n/a	Administrative	37	2008	Yes	Yes

[1] Unavailable: Responsibility delegated to the line and not held centrally.

Opportunities to undertake paid and unpaid work experience are provided by individual Government Departments as a means of providing an introduction to the Civil Service and a way of helping individuals to make longer-term career decisions.

Some work experience schemes are aimed at individuals with an interest in a specific area or profession such as the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or the Government Legal Service. Others, such as the diversity internship programme which has the summer placement scheme for individuals with a registered disability and the summer development programme for individuals from a minority ethnic background, are available for graduates or undergraduates who might be considering the fast stream scheme.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the number of taxed and insured cars that are regularly driven by a driver not included on the insurance certificate. [240433]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: A vehicle may be driven by the main policy holder, a named driver on his or her policy, or by any driver whose policy has a clause that allows that driver to drive any other vehicle with the owner's permission (commonly referred to as DOV cover) on a third-party liability basis.

No information is kept on the number of vehicles that are driven by a person who is not named on the insurance certificate.

We estimate around 2.2 million vehicles are being driven uninsured. The wider issue of uninsured driving is being tackled through a number of measures—for example police powers to seize uninsured vehicles and/or court prosecution.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the Government will revise their modelling of the economic case for a third runway at Heathrow to take account of the most recent estimates from the International Energy Agency of oil prices in 2030. [243960]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The estimated net benefits of additional capacity at Heathrow will be updated in the impact assessment that will be published alongside the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' decision, in January 2009.

The Department for Transport's forecasts use projections of oil prices from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). BERR's most recent projections (May 2008) are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46071.pdf.

The IEA 'World Energy Outlook 2008' report projects a price of $120 per barrel in 2030 (expressed in 2007 prices). This falls within the BERR range of $45-$150 per barrel.

Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid in annual basic wages to staff in senior civil service grades at 31 March *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [244266]

Mr. Hoon: The annual basic wages of senior civil servants in the Department for Transport at 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 were £14,299,021 and £15,224,781 respectively.

Lorries: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prohibitions have been issued to heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) *(a)* with mechanical defects, *(b)* that are overweight and *(c)* where drivers' hours have been exceeded in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) region where the accident took place, (ii) the HGV's country of origin and (iii) whether the HGV was left or right-hand drive. [242895]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003.

The number of prohibitions issued to heavy goods vehicles *(a)* with mechanical defects, *(b)* that are overweight and *(c)* where drivers' hours have been exceeded since 2003, broken down by (i) region, (ii) heavy goods vehicles country of origin has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

VOSA does not record details of whether a prohibition notice is issued to a left or right-hand drive vehicle.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* front and *(b)* rear seat belt wearing rates were among (i) males and (ii) females in each age group in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [244835]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1584W. The results from the October 2008 seat belt wearing survey will be published as soon as practicable. As before, they will be available free of charge from the TRL website.

Railways: Fares

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what fare structure will operate on the domestic rail service between Ebbsfleet and London St Pancras starting in December 2009; and if he will make a statement. [243710]

Paul Clark: The fares structure for Southeastern's domestic high speed services is set out in the Franchise Agreement.

Southeastern have created two sets of fares between London and Gravesend, one set being valid on any permitted route, which includes High Speed 1, and the other not valid on High Speed 1.

A premium may be applied to the fares which are valid on High Speed 1 at Southeastern's discretion, subject to a cap. For fares between Ebbsfleet and any London station, the fare will be the appropriate "not HS1" fare plus a maximum of 35 per cent.

Southeastern has not notified the Department for Transport of the final level of premium.

Road Traffic: Halton

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on the north-west road network of a temporary closure of the Silver Jubilee bridge in Halton lasting *(a)* one week, *(b)* two weeks and *(c)* one month. [244190]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not aware of any scheduled temporary closures of the bridge. The management of the Silver Jubilee bridge is a matter for Halton borough council.

However, as part of the Department's value for money (VfM) assessment of a business case submitted by Halton borough council in 2006 for funding towards a major maintenance scheme on the Silver Jubilee bridge, we assessed the authority's estimate of the effect of a permanent closure of the bridge against the proposed maintenance work. Temporary closures were not assessed.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported deaths there were in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire, *(b)* South Yorkshire, *(c)* North Yorkshire and *(d)* West Yorkshire as a result of traffic accidents in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [244778]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for the each of the last 10 years in *(a)* the East Riding of Yorkshire, *(b)* South Yorkshire, *(c)* North Yorkshire and *(d)* West Yorkshire are given in the following table:

	Number of fatalities			
	East Riding of Yorkshire	*South Yorkshire*	*North Yorkshire*	*West Yorkshire*
1998	33	56	88	106
1999	42	50	68	111
2000	21	62	90	120
2001	24	51	82	144
2002	36	63	95	115
2003	25	65	88	102
2004	34	56	80	116
2005	31	47	85	99
2006	26	71	69	113
2007	28	48	81	103

Southeastern: Ticketing

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to enable the roll-out of a smart card ticketing scheme on the Southeastern rail network capable of operating alongside Transport for London's Oyster card system; and if he will make a statement. [243709]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster Pay as You Go on rail services in the London Travelcard Zones and the acceptance of ITSO Smartcards on Oyster equipment. Commercial and contractual negotiations are taking place.

West Coast Railway Line

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the planned west coast main line improvements. [243223]

Paul Clark: The estimated full cost for the upgrade of the west coast main line remains £9.9 billion as set in the 2003 Government Strategy for the route. £8.8 billion has been spent to date and £1 billion is being provided for the 2009 to 2014 period for power supplies, Stafford and Bletchley works.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Boilers: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that boilers *(a)* are being fitted to the specifications of building regulations and *(b)* checked regularly to prevent deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning; [244511]

(2) if she will consider bringing forward legislative proposals to make the installation of carbon monoxide alarms a legal requirement *(a)* in publicly-owned housing and *(b)* in the construction of all new homes. [244517]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our priority is to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide in the first place. Building regulations are in place to ensure appliances are safely installed and properly ventilated. Carbon monoxide detectors and alarms will never be a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of combustion appliances.

Part J of the Building Regulations 2000 (Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems) sets requirements for an adequate supply of air for combustion and for adequate provision for the discharge of the products of combustion to the outside air. The regulations in England and Wales are inspected and enforced by building control bodies. My Department has also authorised a number of competent person self-certification schemes which help ensure that installers are aware of the standards applicable to boiler installation and are competent to install boilers to those standards. Competent person scheme operators monitor the work of their members to make sure it complies with the requirements.

Private landlords are responsible for maintaining their properties, including the safety of gas and electrical appliances and the fire safety of furniture and furnishings provided under the tenancy. All private landlords are required by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to ensure that all gas appliances are maintained in good order and that an annual gas safety check is carried out by a registered tradesman. This requirement is enforced by the local authority.

We expect to let a research contract early in the new year to look at the changes and developments that have taken place in relation to carbon monoxide detectors since our last review in 2002. The findings of this work will feed into a formal consultation on Part J which we intend to publish in mid-2009.

Council Tax: Arrears

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may take steps to recover council tax arrears without using private companies. [244149]

John Healey: The Local Authorities (Contracting Out of Tax Billing, Collection and Enforcement Functions) Order 1996 allows local authorities to contract out the collection and enforcement of council tax. However, it is a matter for each individual local authority whether they do so.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by her Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244700]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 545-6W, on Departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* expected cost was at the outset of each project. [242151]

Mr. Khan: The required information for the relevant projects is as follows:

Communities and Local Government (including regional co-ordination unit and Government offices in the regions)

Project	*Expected completion date at the outset of the project*	*Expected costs at the outset of the project (£000)*
Website Rationalisation (incorporating Info4Local Rebuild project)	June 2008	3,200
Fire Incident Recording System	December 2006	1,300
Data Interchange Hub Release 2	March 2009	1,273
EDRMS	December 2006	699
SAP Implementing Benefits	February 2009	364
Smarter Business Process (SAP Enhancement)	April 2008	350
Business Intelligence System Technical Upgrade	February 2009	351
PIMS HR e-Strategy Implementation	October 2008	303
Government Offices National Indicator Analysis tool—scoping	December 2008	62
Government Offices Human Resources Database—Phase 2	March 2009	241
Government Offices Online Performance Management System—Phase 2	March 2009	82
Government Offices Contacts Database	March 2009	40

Agencies of the Department

Project	*Expected completion date at the outset of the project*	*Expected costs at the outset of the project (£000)*
Planning Inspectorate		
Fast Track Householder Appeals—Stage 2 (Implementation)	May 2009	175
Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Disaster Recovery (DR)	January 2009	142
Charging for Appeals	April 2009	100
QEII Conference Centre		
Meeting Matrix	September 2007	65

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in her Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242924]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not investigated, suspended or dismissed any civil servants for losing or deliberately disclosing either confidential information or data stored on departmental equipment since its inception.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241248]

Mr. Khan: All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money". However, obtaining the information required by the hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Floods

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to implement the recommendations of the Pitt review on a statutory obligation for fire services to respond to flooding incidents. [243881]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 17 December 2008. A copy of the full Government response has been placed in the Library of the House.

Green belt: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will meet the hon. Member for Castle Point and a delegation of borough councillors to discuss green belt preservation in Castle Point borough. [243084]

Mr. Iain Wright: If the hon. Member writes to me setting out the specific issues he would like to discuss, I will be happy to consider whether such a meeting would be appropriate in light of the Secretary of State's formal role in the planning system. The Government's policy on green belt is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2.

Homelessness: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in each local authority in Essex are currently placed in temporary accommodation outside their borough; and if she will make a statement. [240418]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 58-60W.

Homelessness: Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were recorded as *(a)* homeless and *(b)* rough sleepers in the Reading borough council area during the month of December in each of the last 10 years. [244435]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The question asks for figures for the month of December. The total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty ('acceptances') are collected on a quarterly basis and not broken down to a monthly level, and therefore our figures cover the period October to December. Numbers in temporary accommodation are as of 31 December for each year.

The following table lists the number of acceptances and number of households in temporary accommodation for Reading local authority, in quarter four 1998 to 2008:

	Number of acceptances October-December	*Households in temporary accommodation on 31 December*
1998	121	388
1999	88	[1]—
2000	116	441
2001	105	477
2002	91	448
2003	70	339
2004	51	239
2005	69	214
2006	39	177
2007	39	144

[1] Denotes data not reported by authority

Annual rough sleeping figures for Reading borough council have been collected since 1998 and are published yearly in September. The figures are based on local authority street counts.

	Number of rough sleepers in Reading borough council
1998	13
1999	5
2000	9
2001	18
2002	7
2003	4
2004	6
2005	11
2006	2
2007	15
2008	6

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to Reading borough council for tackling homelessness in each of the last 10 years; and what information her Department holds on how that funding has been spent. [244437]

Mr. Iain Wright: Revenue funding for local authority homelessness services is principally provided through revenue support grant which is unhypothecated. The Government additionally provide homelessness grants to support all local housing authorities' strategies for tackling and preventing all forms of homelessness, including rough sleeping.

The following table shows total allocations of homelessness grant to Reading borough council for each of the years from 2003-04 to 2008-09.

	Homelessness grant (£)
2003-04	393,339
2004-05	250,000
2005-06	250,000
2006-07	250,000
2007-08	250,000
2008-09	[1]250,000

[1] To date

Prior to 2003-04 funding was given direct to voluntary organisations. The Department did not provide any direct funding to voluntary organisations in Reading.

In 2003 every local authority was required to put in place a homelessness strategy to prevent homelessness and provide accommodation and support. It is for local authorities to decide how to use their homelessness grant to effectively deliver their strategies.

Reading borough council also received £878,000 of Hostels Capital Improvement Programme funding over three years to 2007-08.

On 5 December 2007, we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the three years 2008-11 to continue to support local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers there were in the Reading borough council area in the latest period for which figures are available. [244436]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest official figures published in September 2008 show six rough sleepers were found in the street count carried out by Reading borough council.

Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built in each constituency in England in each year since 1997. [244527]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new build completions by constituency is not held centrally.

A table showing house building completions in each local authority in England in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the boards of housing review areas on new house building projects in their areas since 1 April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [242386]

Mr. Iain Wright: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no meetings since April 2008 with representatives of Housing Market Renewal pathfinders to discuss new build projects. However, I have met with Housing Market Renewal pathfinders on three occasions since April 2008 to discuss a range of issues relevant to their work programme.

Housing: Immigrants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of unmet demand for housing which arises as a result of net immigration; and if she will make a statement. [243005]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden (Mr. Lilley) on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the impact of net migration on housing demand in England over *(a)* the next 20 years and *(b)* periods beyond 20 years; and when she next expects to revise those assessments. [244299]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1396-97W.

Projections have not been made beyond 2026.

New 2006-based household projections are expected to be published in 2009. These will be based on the 2006-based population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Housing: Low Incomes

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide a breakdown by funding stream of the £775 million being brought forward from the 2010-11 budget for affordable housing in each Government office region. [243405]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over £8 billion has been allocated for the National Affordable Housing Programme over the Spending Review period 2008-11. £150 million is being brought forward from the 2010-11 budget and is being allocated to individual regions on a pro rata basis in line with the formulaic allocation of the funding over the whole 2008-11 period as follows:

	£ million
East	14.2
East Midlands	6.2
London	62.5
North East	3.2
North West	10.2
South East	24.3
South West	14.3
West Midlands	9.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	6.2

These are indicative figures and do not impact on the overall three-year indicative allocations to regions. The spending of the allocations will be subject to appropriate bids being agreed and delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Regional Development Agencies will consider bringing forward, from 2010-11, up to £100 million nationally to provide a fiscal stimulus to regional and economic development. They are working closely with the HCA to see how bringing forward funding can make the greatest impact, whilst representing best value on key regeneration schemes that have been highlighted as being at risk.

A further £80 million in 2009-10 will assist the HCA with continuing to bring forward land development schemes of national and regional importance. The HCA will ensure this additional funding is concentrated on those schemes which provide the greatest impact and value for money. The HCA is currently reviewing with my officials which schemes to assist. Decisions will be made in the new year about the process for bringing forward some £250 million Decent Homes and £175 million major repairs allowance funding from 2010-11.

Some £20 million funding for the Community Infrastructure Fund will also be brought forward into the current financial year, for schemes in the following regions:

	£ million
East	4.8
East Midlands	10
London	1.3
South East	3.6
Unallocated	4.2

Housing: Regeneration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many new build properties were built in each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area in 2007-08; and what amount of central grant contribution was made *(a)* towards each new build unit and *(b)* across the programme; [243749]

(2) how many properties were refurbished in each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area in 2007-08; and what the average cost of refurbishment was *(a)* in each Pathfinder area and *(b)* across the programme; [243750]

(3) how many properties were demolished in each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area in 2007-08; and what the average cost of demolition was *(a)* in each Pathfinder area and *(b)* across the programme; [243751]

(4) how many properties were acquired in each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area in 2007-08; and what the average cost of acquisition was *(a)* in each Pathfinder and *(b)* across the programme. [243752]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W. Information on average costs is not held in a readily available format and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department is providing for home improvement agencies; what the contribution is of the Supporting People budget to the work of such agencies; and what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the resources available to assist people seeking to modify their homes in order to be able to remain resident in them. [244331]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise the importance of adequate resources being made available to provide home adaptations enabling vulnerable people to remain living comfortably and safely in their homes. We have made additional funding of over £30 million available from 2009 which will go to support local agencies, such as home improvement agencies (HIAs), to help older people with minor repairs and adaptations. This is one of a number of initiatives for the promotion and development of HIAs and better home repairs and adaptations services included in 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods—A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society', published earlier this year, addressing the housing and related service needs of older people.

My Department has provided new funding for a three-year contract for a national body for HIAs from September 2008 for development of the HIA sector. We have also sponsored a future home improvement agency project, the findings of which were published in September. This project aims to set out a broad agenda for the evolution of the HIA sector to its next level. As a way of encouraging and developing HIAs and their work, it highlights what is already being done well by HIAs and suggests models for wider application.

The Government also recognise the importance of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme in enabling people to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their homes, which is why funding in this area has increased significantly. Funding since 1997 has more than doubled from £57 million to £146 million in 2008. The budget will rise by a further £10 million in the next two years increasing to £166 million by 2010, an increase of over 30 per cent. However, the DFG budget should not be seen as the sole source of funding for adaptations, and local authorities are expected to also contribute towards these costs as they have always done.

In addition, the Government's Supporting People (SP) programme allows local authorities to fund handy person schemes for their local area if an authority wishes to do so. In 2006-07 there was a local authority spend on HIAs through SP funding of over £15.413

million. The SP ring-fenced grant conditions will be removed from 2009-10 to enable local authorities to better meet the needs of vulnerable clients, including older people, by the use of more flexible innovative services.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the level of potential duplication between property information questionnaires and questions asked later in the conveyancing process. [243757]

Mr. Iain Wright: The property information questionnaire will provide buyers, right at the start of the buying process, with the basic, useful information about a property that will help to inform their decision to view a property or make an offer. It will also act as a 'trigger' for seeking more information further down the line.

It is not intended to replace the checks and assurances undertaken by property professionals as the transaction is finalised.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to ensure that buyers of new homes do not face unforeseen construction faults. [244518]

Mr. Iain Wright: Purchasers of new build homes in most cases are afforded protection through the provision of measures such as warranties. Under the terms of a typical warranty, the builder is responsible for putting right any defects caused by breaches of any technical requirements for the first two years (from completion). From years three to 10 the warranty provides insurance against the cost of repairing certain specified defects. In addition, existing contract law offers avenues of redress for purchasers of new build homes who are dissatisfied with the performance of the homebuilder under the terms of their contract. The buyer can either take action through the courts for monetary compensation or to have the contract performed properly.

However, a recent Office of Fair Trading report found room for improvement in the arena of new-build consumer protection. The OFT has since been working with the homebuilding industry to help it develop a new approach to self-regulation to improve consumer protection together with a new body to administer the protection process. This is intended to be fully operational by March 2010.

Local Authorities: Skin Piercing

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have adopted the Local Government Act 2003 byelaws in respect of cosmetic body piercing. [244107]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has confirmed cosmetic piercing byelaws have been adopted by 102 local authorities to date.

Mersey Gateway

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce her decision on Halton council's capitalisation bid for the Mersey Gateway. [244238]

John Healey: In line with the timetable set out in the Government's guidance, the Department expects to announce the decision on Halton borough council's capitalisation bid for the Mersey Gateway by the end of January 2009.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 20-21WS, on town and country planning, what progress the Government have made in implementing permitted development rights for air source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines; [244255]

(2) when she plans to bring forward delegated legislation to allow air source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines into the permitted development system. [244487]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Prime Minister has received two recent letters from members of the public on the noise thresholds under permitted development for householder air-source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines. The Government are committed to permitting the installation of small wind turbines and air source heat pumps without the need for a planning application. However it is important we set the right criteria for noise levels for wind turbines and pumps on homes under permitted development and resolve the issue of possible interference with aviation communication systems. The Minister for Housing and Planning will make a statement to Parliament in the new year.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from tenants' groups on the rights of tenants in circumstances where the property they occupy is being purchased via a buy-to-let scheme and repossession proceedings are taking place; and if she will make a statement. [244152]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not received representations from groups directly representative of private tenants. Several voluntary groups with a clear tenant focus have contacted the Department to express concern about the rights of tenants of privately rented properties where the landlord has failed to keep up with mortgage repayments and is in the process of being repossessed. We are considering these issues as we develop the detail of our repossession package alongside our response to Julie Rugg's independent review of the private rented sector which also reflects on this issue.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 446W, on multiple occupation: licensing, if she will place in the Library a copy of each piece of written guidance on best practice produced by the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services in support of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation. [244433]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of each piece of written guidance on best practice produced by the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORs) in support of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are available from

www.lacors.gov.uk

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 446W, on multiple occupation: licensing, if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice and guidance on best practice in relation to regulation of private sector landlords to which the answer refers. [244819]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of each piece of written advice and guidance on best practice produced by the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORs) in relation to regulation of private sector landlords are available from

www.lacors.gov.uk.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on multiple occupation: licensing, for what reasons her Department has no plans to establish a central record of offences committed under mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation. [245009]

Mr. Iain Wright: Implementation of the houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing provisions, including enforcement action, is conducted at a local level. Local authorities are under a statutory duty to prosecute those landlords that do not comply with the legislation, and therefore there is no formal role for central Government in this process.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the cross-departmental working group on coastal towns has met since February 2008; where each meeting was held; who attended each meeting; and what the outcomes of each meeting were. [244402]

John Healey: The cross-departmental working group has met once since February 2008 on 23 July 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2009.

The 23 July meeting was held at CLG headquarters at Eland House, London. In addition to CLG officials, it was attended by officials from the following Departments and organisations.

BERR
DEFRA
DCMS
DIUS
DOH
DWP
Commission for Rural Communities
Environment Agency
Government Office for the South East
Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government
South East Economic Development Agency
Margate Renewal Partnership
Thanet District Council
Professor Steve Fothergill, Sheffield Hallam University

The main outcomes from the meeting were:

agreement to publish the results of a benchmarking exercise of seaside towns, undertaken for CLG by Professor Steve Fothergill;

in partnership with the RDA-led Coastal Towns Network, to set up two sub-groups to improve the evidence-base on the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns. One sub-group is looking at the role of strategic mechanisms and approaches like local area agreements and sub-regional partnerships in improving coastal town regeneration outcomes. The other sub-group is looking at options for raising employment and skill levels in coastal locations; and

to invite Departments and agencies represented on the working group to provide updates on current and proposed initiatives relevant to the support of regeneration and sustainable development in coastal towns.

Regional Planning and Development: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will extend the deadline for the payment of £200,000 in respect of the timely submission of Castle Point's Local Development Framework to allow for public consultation; and if she will make a statement. [243225]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities are rewarded under Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) for submitting their development plan documents on time according to the timetable set out in their local development scheme (LDS). LDS timetables are decided by local planning authorities who should have built full provision for public consultation within their LDS timetable. Grant is reduced where documents are not submitted in accordance with the LDS.

The grant award to authorities depends on the number of plans submitted overall, so while £200,000 was paid in the current financial year the amount may well be different next year.

Regional Planning and Development: Retail Trade

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will encourage Newcastle city council to bring forward development briefs for retail developments in Newcastle upon Tyne as a way of stimulating local economic activity within sustainable communities in the city. [244127]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the pre-Budget report, the Government introduced new measures to bring forward £3 billion of capital spending from 2010-11 to 2009-10. The outcome of bringing forward public investment will impact directly on economic activity in the UK, in particular supporting the construction sector.

Local authorities have an important role to play in driving local economic development in their area, building on their place shaping role and we would encourage authorities to look at how they can support their local communities and local business during the economic downturn.

It is not Government policy, however, to intervene in such a specific way to influence local authorities regarding the detail of how they stimulate their local economies. We are keeping in close contact with them to understand the issues facing them, the actions they are taking and any support required by central Government. We are currently keeping all significant infrastructure projects, including retail developments, under review through the Regional Minister and the Council of Regional Ministers.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of the single farm payment to finance flood mitigation measures. [243689]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have not commissioned or evaluated any research on use of the single farm payment to finance flood mitigation measures.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 968-9W, on the Animal Welfare Act 2006, when he expects the secondary legislation to which it referred will be introduced. [243466]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: DEFRA keeps under review the timetable of secondary legislation. The following table provides a list of made and proposed secondary legislation and codes.

Secondary legislation	*Date into force*
The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007	6 April 2007
The Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007	6 April 2007
The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	3 June 2008
Commencement order bringing into force offences relating to the recording of animal fights	6 April 2009
Welfare code of practice on cats	6 April 2009
Welfare code of practice on dogs	6 April 2009
Welfare code of practice on equines	6 April 2009
Welfare code of practice on private keeping of primates	1 October 2009
Welfare code of practice on the rearing of gamebirds	1 October 2009
Regulations on the welfare of racing greyhounds	6 April 2010

Animal Welfare: Game

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account his Department will take of the recommendations from the Farm Animal Welfare Council on the welfare of farmed game birds in its preparation of a code of practice on the rearing and breeding of game birds. [244155]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is in the process of setting up a working group to draft a code of practice, to be made under the 2006 Animal Welfare Act, which will offer guidance to owners and keepers on how to meet their statutory responsibility to provide for the welfare needs of their animals.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council opinion on certain management techniques will help to inform the working group.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to include farmed game birds under the protection offered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [244164]

Jane Kennedy: Game birds reared for sporting purposes, prior to their release, are already covered by the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the "2006 Act"), as they are animals under the control of man.

Badgers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been for illegal actions relating to badgers in each of the last five years; how many of these were successful; and what guidelines he issues to police forces on this issue. [241707]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that the cruel treatment of badgers is unacceptable and have put in place comprehensive legislation, including the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, to protect them. The Government also provide funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, which provides advice for police forces on the detection and investigation of wildlife crime. The police have primary responsibility for the investigation and enforcement of offences against badgers and all forces have officers who have responsibility for investigating wildlife offences.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to the Protection of Badgers Act, sections 1(1), 1(3), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(c), 4, 5, and 10 (8), for the years 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection for Badgers Act 1992, sections 1(1), 1(3), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(c), 4, 5, and 10 (8) in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2003	10	4
2004	12	4
2005	23	11
2006	10	3
2007	20	6

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Wilfully killing badger
Wilfully injuring badger
Wilfully taking badger
Wilfully attempting to kill badger
Wilfully attempting to injure badger
Wilfully attempting to take badger
Ill-treating badger
Digging for badger
Selling live badger
Offering to sell live badger
Unlawfully marking badger
Unlawfully attaching ring tag or marking device to badger
Possessing or controlling thing derived from dead badger
Possessing or controlling live badger
Failing to comply with condition of licence.

Source:
OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Bees

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the possible effects of the use of wireless technology on bee populations. [243949]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has made no assessment of the possible effects of the use of wireless technology on the bee population.

British Waterways

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of the sale of British Waterways' property portfolio on the finances of British Waterways; [243141]

(2) what plans are in place for selling the property portfolio of British Waterways; and if he will make a statement; [243146]

(3) what the timetable is for the sale of British Waterways' property portfolio; [243222]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals to compensate British Waterways for the reduction in annual income from its property portfolio if its property is sold. [243267]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The Treasury operational efficiency programme review will consider the scope for improved asset management across Government and will provide an update on progress by the April 2009 Budget. The scope of this review will include British Waterways' non-operational property portfolio, and business model, to consider how its assets might best deliver public value. The review will also consider any implications of options considered for the long-term funding of British Waterways' statutory responsibilities carefully. No conclusions have yet been drawn regarding any possible disposal of British Waterways' property portfolio.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which charities his Department has provided funding of more than £100,000 in each of the last three years; and how much was provided to each. [242425]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The Department does not hold such information centrally. The level of detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243761]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not pay for Christmas parties for staff. The core Department's financial system does not recognise the expenditure categories of staff entertainment or entertainment.

Consumer Council for Water

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason he has decided to review the Consumer Council for Water. [244108]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government wish to ensure the best arrangements are in place for consumer representation for water and sewerage customers and are considering whether the new arrangements put in place for the energy and postal sectors on 1 October 2008 may also offer an improved service for the water sector.

We are considering the options, which include passing responsibility for handling complaints not resolved by water companies to a new redress scheme for water consumers, and merging the Consumer Council for Water with Consumer Focus; or retaining the existing arrangements.

There will be detailed public consultation on a number of possible scenarios before a decision is made.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Consumer Council for Water has in the regular Ofwat review of charges. [244109]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The role of the Consumer Council for Water is to ensure that the views of water consumers are recognised, considered and acted upon.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each change in Ministers since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [240310]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA was formed in June 2001, and the Department supplies Ministers with laptops, mobile phones and PDAs on request.

Under current contracts, all departmental computer equipment is owned by IBM, and configured only to work on the DEFRA platform. Departmental mobile phones are under contract with Vodaphone, and IBM maintains all the departmental PDAs which are configured to only work to departmental e-mail addresses.

All equipment issued is returned at the end of any ministerial tenure, and reconfigured and reused within the Department wherever possible. One mobile phone, two PDAs, and three laptops are currently being used by departmental Ministers.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241245]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally the core Department spent the following sums on ministerial hospitality for the years in question expressed in current prices taking 2004 as the base year:

	Expenditure (£)
2004-05	15,521.31
2005-06	18,445.98
2006-07	13,346.71
2007-08	4,906.65

Departmental Property

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on maintaining its domestic properties in each of the last five years. [242290]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The Department has expended the following amounts on maintaining its residential dwellings in each of the last five years:

	£
2004	18,104
2005	107,131
2006	24,378
2007	22,938
2008	26,997

The figure for 2005 includes the Department's contractually agreed contribution to the Warwick Horticultural Research Institute's (HRI) cost in backlog maintenance of its cottages at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. Prior to the transfer to the new ownership in March 2004, the dwellings were held by DEFRA and were used to house staff working for the HRI.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure his Department incurred in respect of *(a)* Balmoral Transport Service, *(b)* MC Chauffeurs and *(c)* Stratstone in 2007-08; and to what purpose. [241192]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the expenditure information requested is as follows:

Supplier	*Purpose*	*Expenditure (£)*
Balmoral Transport Service	Car Transport for Minister	245.00
MC Chauffeurs	Car Transport for Ministers, Officials	1740.21
Stratstone	—	Nil

Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 614W, on flood control, what the *(a)* original planned and *(b)* actual completion date of completed flood protection schemes was in each of the last five years; and what the original planned completion date was of each flood protection scheme which had not been completed by that date. [240665]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 2004 to 2008 the Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service (NCPMS) was responsible for a total of 146 completed projects. Of these, 83 were completed early or on time and 63 were completed after the expected date. Information prior to 2004 is not available as records were not held centrally.

Details of the projects have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional flood defences commissioned since the floods in July 2007 his Department *(a)* has had built and *(b)* is having built. [241294]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since the floods in July 2007 49 projects have been completed by the Environment Agency and 143 projects are under instruction. This includes many places which were flooded in the summer of 2007.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to increase the level of preparedness of the public to manage incidents of flooding in the course of implementation of the recommendations made in the Pitt report on flooding. [242795]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings and will be publishing a detailed response setting out implementation to date and further actions shortly.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce a programme for the implementation of the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's final report on the 2007 floods. [242800]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's detailed response to the Pitt review will be published shortly.

Floods and Water Bill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his plans for the proposed Floods and Water Bill is to be published. [242716]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39W.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individual test sites were involved in the Part B consents for experimental releases of genetically modified organisms under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) (England) Regulations 2002; how many consents were granted and still valid in England between January 2000 and the present; and if he will place in the Library a list of all such sites. [242465]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information my department has available regarding individual test sites is the number of different six-figure grid references notified by consent holders, which amounts to 562 in England. Some of these sites were used more than once under a particular consent or the same site was notified for use under more than one consent.

41 consents have been granted in England since January 2000 of which four are still valid. Details of these can be found in the list of all the part B consents granted under Directive 90/220/EEC on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/exper.htm.

Those granted under Directive 2001/18/EC can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/consents/index.htm

A list of active part B consents with their test sites can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/trials-rev080708.pdf

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to support at EU level proposals for competent authorities to create GM-free zones. [242650]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Earlier this month the EU Environment Council adopted a set of written conclusions on various GM-related issues, including GM-free zones. The relevant text of the conclusions states that:

> "(The Council) notes that GMO-free zones can be created on the basis of voluntary agreement which, in line with relevant national law, could be tacit between the economic operators concerned in the area in question and that in order to ensure freedom of choice all concerned operators must be properly informed about an intention to create the GMO-free zone."

The UK supported the adoption of the conclusions.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that all future field trials of genetically-modified crops in the UK shall be carried out at Porton Down or another high security establishment suitable for testing potentially harmful organisms. [243549]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Genetically-modified crop trials will only be authorised if a robust assessment demonstrates that, with appropriate risk management controls in place, no adverse effects on human health and the environment would be expected. As such, it would not be necessary to require that approved trials are conducted in establishments suitable for testing potentially harmful organisms.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports he has received of cases *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* elsewhere of animal deaths in connection with the consumption of the foliage of genetically-modified Bt cotton plants. [243551]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The only report we are aware of is that in India sheep in particular have died after grazing on the stubble of GM cotton crops. We understand that this matter has been considered by the Indian authorities, who have not identified any basis for concluding that the deaths were caused by a specific toxic effect of the GM plants.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites were used in England for the farm scale evaluations (FSE) of genetically modified organisms from January 2000; how many were vandalised; whether, in each case of vandalism, the trials produced data which was used in the final analysis of the FSE results; and if he will list in each case the *(a)* crop, *(b)* location, *(c)* six figure map reference and *(d)* Part B consent number, where appropriate. [241624]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The farm-scale evaluations involved 256 plantings in England after January 2000, in addition to the first three sites planted in the autumn of 1999. A list of all the FSE sites can be found on the web at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/fse/location/index.htm

41 plantings were vandalised and of these, eight were terminated and 33 continued to be used in the evaluations. A list of vandalised sites is as follows:

Local Village / Town or Parish	*Grid ref*	*Part B consent ref.*	*Crop type*	*Vandalism*
Norfolk - Great Moulton	TM 165 902	01/R33/11	Oilseed rape (winter)	[1]—
Dorset - Hilton	ST 788 028	00/R33/09	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
Norfolk -Bradenham	TF 940 087	99/R22/16	Sugar beet	[2]—
Norfolk -Raynham (East Raynham)	TF 893 262	99/R22/16	Sugar beet	[2]—
Dorset -Bincombe	SY 680 822	—	Forage maize	[1]—
Dorset -Bincombe	SY 681 836	—	Forage maize	[1]—
Essex -Weeley	TM 168 215	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Leeds-Bramham cum Oglethorpe	SE 448 422	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Norfolk -Horningtoft	TF 934 241	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Norfolk - Old Buckenham	TM 068 897	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Shropshire -Hinstock	SJ 683 254	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Warrington -Lymm	SJ 714 870	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Shropshire -Whitchurch	SJ 573 381	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Norfolk -Winfarthing	TM 099 872	01/R33/11	Oilseed rape (winter)	[2]—
Oxfordshire - -Hinton Waldrist	SU 365 980	01/R33/11	Oilseed rape (winter)	[2]—
Warwickshire -Long Marston	SP151 489	01/R33/11	Oilseed rape (winter)	[2]—
Durham -Hutton Magna	NZ 136 107	00/R33/9	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
North Lincolnshire -Low Burnham	SE 776 018	06/R33/9	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
Cheshire -Broomedge	SJ 697 862	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Berkshire -Shinfieid	SU 748 692	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Dorset -Broadway	SY 680 822	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Essex -Wivenhoe	TM 051 221	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Essex -Alresford	TM 056 221	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Herefordshire -Preston Wynne	SO 566 478	—	Forage maize	[2]—
West Yorkshire - Bramham	SE 450 412	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Norfolk - North Tuddenham	TG031 134	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Worcestershire - Crowle	SO 915 564	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Nottinghamshire - Meden Vale	SK 589 706	00/R33/07	Oilseed rape (winter)	[2]—
Warwickshire -Harbury	SP 378 597	00/R33/07	Oilseed rape (winter)	[2]—
Gloucestershire - Chipping Campden	SP 154 403	98/R19/18	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
Gloucestershire - Kempley	SO 675 313	98/R19/18	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
Hertfordshire - Piccots End	TL 068 115	98/R19/18	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
North Yorkshire - Hutton Magna, Durham	NZ137115	98/R19/18	Oilseed rape (spring)	[2]—
Norfolk - West Raynham	TF 851 240	98/R22/12	Sugar beet	[1]—
Suffolk - Kenny Hill	TL 658 802	98/R22/12	Sugar beet	[1]—
Dorset - Over Compton	ST 587 164	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Essex -Wivenhoe	TM 051 224	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Herefordshire -Preston Wynne (Rosem)	SO 566 475	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Hertfordshire -Harpenden	TL118 130	—	Forage maize	[1]—
North Yorkshire - Bramham	SE 442 409	—	Forage maize	[2]—
Hertfordshire -Piccots End	TL069 118	98/R19/18	Oilseed rape (winter)	[1]—

[1] Trial terminated

[2] Trail continued

The forage maize crop had a Part C (cultivation) consent, ref.C/F/95/12-07.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Part B consents for the experimental releases of genetically modified organisms authorised under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 and the GMO (Deliberate Release) (England) Regulations 2002 were *(a)* granted and *(b)* still valid in England since January 2000; and if he will list them. [241763]

Huw Irranca-Davies: 182 Part B consents were issued in England in the period when Directive 90/220/EEC was applicable. A list of these consents can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/exper.pdf.

13 Part B consents have been issued in England since Directive 200/18/EC became applicable. A list of these consents is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/consents/index.htm.

Four Part B consents are still valid and details of these can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/trials-rev080708.pdf.

International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tuna

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Government played during the recent meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna; what representations he and his Departmental officials made; what assessment he has made of the outcome of the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [242998]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK attended the ICCAT meeting as part of the European Community delegation and also has a seat on behalf of overseas territories in the Atlantic ocean (Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos and St. Helena).

Prior to the meeting, the UK (in both its capacity as a member of the EC delegation and on behalf of the overseas territories) held bilateral talks with USA, Canada and Chinese Taipei. UK overseas territories also had regular discussions with the EC during the course of the meeting.

Regular EC co-ordination meetings were held and the UK made various representations at these on a range of issues including improved compliance in the ICCAT fisheries, conservation of sharks and blue fin tuna.

I consider that the outcome of the meeting was positive but I would have preferred to have agreed more stringent measures on the conservation of sharks and a smaller TAC for blue fin tuna. I do not believe that it is acceptable to only have conservation measures relating to live sharks and consider that dead sharks should be discarded at sea rather than landed. The EC campaigned vigorously on this point but encountered too much opposition to agree a consensus. The EC intends to continue to push for a stronger conservation regime for sharks and will do so with the whole hearted support of the UK.

On blue fin tuna, it would have been desirable to secure a smaller TAC for this stock, but I am satisfied with the enhanced control measures agreed for this fishery and are confident that it can now be effectively managed.

There were detailed discussions on the report of the independent body that undertook a review into the functioning of ICCAT. A working group will now be set up to discuss this report with a view to implementing the recommendations and the UK will look to play a role in these discussions.

Litter: Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what enforcement measures have been undertaken by each local council to impose penalties for litter under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; how many fines have been imposed; and to what value. [240893]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, local authorities can issue a fixed penalty notice, namely an on the spot fine of up to £80, to anyone caught dropping litter. Local authorities can bring prosecutions for non-payment of charges which can lead to a fine of up to £2,500 and a criminal record upon conviction.

Latest figures (April 2006-March 2007) on the number of fixed penalty notices issued show:

Number of fixed penalty notices issued for litter: 43,624

Total amount collected: £1,521,900.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fines have been imposed by local councils for the littering of *(a)* cigarette butts and *(b)* chewing gum in the last 12 months; and what the total monetary value of such penalties was. [240895]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of fines issued by local councils is collated under the broad heading of litter and not broken down to the different types of litter. The amount collected from fixed penalty notices for littering for the year 2006-07 (the most recent year for which figures are available) is £1,521,900.

Nature Conservation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the potential cost to businesses of the introduction of the new charging systems for licences under the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species. [244557]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* An impact assessment of the new charging regime, which includes an assessment of the potential effect on businesses, has been published and is available on the DEFRA website. The impact assessment was informed by independent research.

Pesticides

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 308-09W, on pesticides, how much funding the Government has provided in respect of off-label applications; and when he expects the interim period to end. [243523]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The cost of off-label approvals is being increased incrementally in six stages beginning in April 2007 and ending in April 2012. During this period, the total funding being provided by Government are estimated at £175,000.

Pigmeat: Contamination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* the Irish government on the source of dioxins in pork. [242885]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The source of the oil believed to have caused the contamination of feeding stuffs in Republic of Ireland, which resulted in dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls in pork, is currently subject to a joint investigation by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Síochána, the national police service for the Republic of Ireland. The Food Standards Agency has been and continues to be in regular dialogue with officials from the Governments of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Primates

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether codes of conduct on the treatment of primates are under consideration by his Department. [243529]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that it is DEFRA's intention, in line with commitments made to Parliament, to make a code of practice under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on the private keeping of primates.

Public Footpaths: River Thames

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to extend the Thames Path National Trail from Woolwich up to the Thames Estuary. [242570]

Huw Irranca-Davies: At present there are no plans to formally extend the Thames Path National Trail from its end point at the Thames Barrier. However, the provision of a long distance footpath on either side of the Thames from the Thames Barrier to Southend in Essex and Sheppey in Kent is a key ambition of the Thames Gateway Parklands Vision launched by Communities and Local Government (CLG) in October of this year. A scoping study was launched at the Thames Gateway Forum by CLG to help progress the initiative, outlining the feasibility and estimated costs of approx. £37 million. As yet there is no financial commitment for this Thames Gateway Parklands project, but its potential contribution to the Thames Gateway as the UK's first Eco Region is recognised.

The powers to enable the creation of a right of access to the coast of England set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill currently before Parliament, could be used up to the first pedestrian crossing point to the Thames, subject to consideration of a number of criteria laid out in the Bill. The Bill places a requirement on Natural England to determine the appropriate approach to the Thames Estuary in consultation with land owners and stakeholders as set out in a statutory scheme for England approved by the Secretary of State. Natural England has published a draft of this scheme on their website and the Thames is used as one of the examples in this to illustrate the proposed approach to estuaries.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1181-4W, on the Rural Development Programme, if he will provide the figures requested, excluding projects where England Rural Development Programme legacy payments were made after 1 January 2007. [241025]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of projects for which funding has been approved by each regional development agency under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), broken down by the categories previously requested.

It should be noted that for Axes 1, 3 and Leader the RDPE commenced in January 2008.

Regional development agency		*Up to £5,000*	*£5,001-£100,000*	*£100,001-£1 million*	*£1 million+*
Advantage West Midlands	Axis 1	—	—	1	3
	Axis 3	—	—	—	2
	Leader	—	—	1	2
East of England Development Agency	Axis 1	—	1	2	4
	Axis 3	—	—	—	—
	Leader	—	—	1	6
East Midlands Development Agency	Axis 1	—	4	1	1
	Axis 3	—	—	6	—
	Leader	—	—	—	4
North West Development Agency	Axis 1	—	1	4	2
	Axis 3	—	—	—	—
	Leader	—	—	6	2
One North East	Axis 1	—	—	2	2
	Axis 3	—	1	1	2
	Leader	—	—	—	4
South East England Development Agency	Axis 1	—	5	6	1
	Axis 3	—	1	2	8
	Leader	—	—	—	14
South West of England Development Agency	Axis 1	—	4	15	1
	Axis 3	—	5	1	—
	Leader	—	—	1	14
Yorkshire Forward	Axis 1	—	18	6	2
	Axis 3	1	29	2	1
	Leader	—	6	—	—

Seals: Conservation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to review the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 with a view to strengthening the protection offered to seals. [245086]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government believe that the protection afforded to seals by the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 is appropriate and proportionate and therefore have no plans to review it.

Tuna: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 312W, on tuna: conservation, what progress was made on agreeing enhanced control measures at the meeting; what assessment he has made of their effectiveness; and if he will make a statement. [242840]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The revised blue fin tuna management plan which was agreed at the 16th Special meeting of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) contains a number of enhanced management measures. These include:

> Extensions to the closure periods of the fishery for purse seiners, long liners and pelagic trawlers as well as to recreational and sports fishermen;
>
> A ban on the transhipment of blue fin tuna at sea;
>
> An obligation on each contracting party operating in the fishery to institute a capacity reduction management plan covering both vessels and farms;
>
> Transfers of blue fin tuna between vessels or from vessels to cages will not be allowed with the prior permission of the contracting party of the flag vessel which initially caught the fish;
>
> All vessels operating in the blue fin tuna fishery, be they catching vessels, tug boats or transport vessels, must be registered with ICCAT before they can operate;
>
> All vessels over 15 metres operating in the fishery must be equipped with vessel monitoring systems, 20 per cent. of each category of vessel operating in the fishery must have on board observers, all purse seiners and vessels transferring tuna to cages must have observers operating under a regional programme or their activities will not be authorised.

Furthermore, ICCAT will hold an inter-sessional meeting of the compliance committee in the first quarter of 2009, where all contracting parties with blue fin tuna quotas must demonstrate that they can fully comply with the control measures contained in the management plan. If they are unable to do so the Compliance Committee can vote, by simple majority, to suspend the quotas for individual contracting parties until they are able to demonstrate full compliance.

When the amended management plan was presented to the ICCAT meeting, the only contracting party to object was Libya. I consider the plan has the confidence of the vast majority of ICCAT contracting parties and therefore should be effective given the collective will for it to succeed.

Water Charges

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the costs of climate change adaptation on the Ofwat Price Review 2009; and if he will make a statement. [241186]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In August water and sewerage companies submitted draft business plans to Ofwat. In those plans they laid out the proposed level of expenditure for improving their systems' resilience to hazards such as climate change.

In October, Ofwat published its report, 'Setting price limits for 2010-15: Overview of companies' draft business plans'. This shows that almost £1 billion of investment had been proposed by water and sewerage companies to increase resilience to a variety of hazards including climate change.

Ofwat is challenging these draft plans before final business plans are submitted in April 2009.

Further information on what companies have proposed in their draft business plans is available in Ofwat's report, which can be accessed on the Ofwat website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been taken into care in each year since 1997, broken down by reasons for being taken into care. [241620]

Beverley Hughes: The number of children that have been taken into care in each year since 2001, broken down by reasons for being taken into care can be found in the following table.

Information going back to 1997 is not available. This is due to an introduction of new category of need codes in 2000 on the Children Looked After system which are used to identify the reason for being taken into care.

Children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March by category of need[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]: Years ending 31 March 2001 to 2008. Coverage: England

Numbers

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All children who were taken into care[1, 2, 3]	7,000	7,400	8,100	7,500	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,400
Category of need[4]								
Abuse or neglect	5,600	6,000	6,600	5,900	6,000	5,700	5,700	5,400
Child's disability	70	50	70	50	60	70	70	50
Parents illness or disability	200	200	340	200	100	120	200	270

Children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March by category of need[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] Years ending 31 March 2001 to 2008. Coverage: England

Numbers

	2001[5]	2002[5]	2003[5]	2004[6]	2005[6]	2006[6]	2007[6]	2008[6]
Family in acute distress	270	260	290	250	360	670	900	800
Family dysfunction	520	520	590	670	700	790	870	860
Socially unacceptable behaviour	100	110	90	110	80	100	80	90
Low income	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	10
Absent parenting	150	190	150	190	170	240	160	160

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] "Children taken into care" are children who started to be looked after under the following legal status: interim or full care orders, police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

[7] It is the most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the recommendations of the report of the Thanet inquiry in respect of looked-after children and vulnerable young people being placed out-of-county by local authorities. [244252]

Beverley Hughes: The Thanet Inquiry was produced in June 2005 by the (then) Kent Child Protection Committee. The Inquiry report included useful information about the impact of "out of authority" placements of looked after children on a district with a significant number of private children's homes and independent fostering providers.

There are a number of initiatives that we are taking forward as part of our "Care Matters" programme that will tackle some of the concerns raised by the Inquiry. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 recently received royal assent and Section 8 sets out the considerations that local authorities must have regard to when they are considering making a placement for a looked after child, including giving consideration as far as is reasonably practicable to a placement being near a child's home and within the local authority's area. Furthermore, Section 16 of the Act reaffirms local authority responsibilities to ensure visits to looked after children including those placed out of authority and a long way from their homes.

We will shortly also be consulting on revised guidance on children missing from care which will include more information about the responsibilities of local authorities when a child placed outside of their local authority area goes missing from their placement.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are living in poverty and not entitled to a free school meal, broken down by local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [242470]

Beverley Hughes: It is not possible to answer this question as the Government do not have this information broken down at the local authority level.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of the Ofsted inspectors who undertook the recent inspection of Haringey child protection services took part in the *(a)* 2007 Annual Performance Assessment and *(b)* 2006 Joint Area Review. [240757]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 December 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

On November 12 2008, following receipt of the Serious Case Review on the death of Baby P, Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, commissioned a Joint Area Review of safeguarding in Haringey. Ofsted led this review, working with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and the Healthcare Commission.

None of the inspectors who undertook the recent Joint Area Review in Haringey took part in the authority's 2007 Annual Performance Assessment. One of the members of the inspection team led the previous Joint Area Review of Haringey, which was undertaken in 2006. This ensured that the team possessed the necessary knowledge and background on Haringey, which I deemed to be beneficial in the circumstances. I signed off the report and it was issued in my name.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's Centres: Loughborough

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what level of funding he has made available for children's centres in Loughborough in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [244190]

Beverley Hughes: Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres is allocated to local authorities as part of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. Details of the allocation given to Leicestershire local authority to support and develop children's centres across the authority, including in Loughborough, is given in the following table. Local authorities are responsible for allocating funding to individual children's centres within their area, based on levels of need and demand for services.

	Sure Start Children's Centre Revenue[1]	£ million Sure Start Children's Centre Capital
(a) 2008-09	5.1	0.967
(b) 2009-10	6.7	2.5

[1] Includes ring-fenced funding for Leicestershire's Sure Start Local Programmes, now Sure Start Children's Centres.

Connexions Service

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have sought individual advice from Connexions Direct via *(a)* an online adviser, *(b)* telephone and callback, *(c)* textphone, *(d)* text and *(e)* email in each of the last five years. [244444]

Beverley Hughes: We only have information on customer contacts under current contracts which began in September 2004. Call volumes are as follows:

Total Connexions direct call volumes by channel

January to December	Online Adviser	Telephone	Callback	Textphone	Text	Email
2004	30,862	19,638	—	—	4,929	8,153
2005	144,903	80,615	—	—	11,392	35,962
2006	169,122	70,560	1,540	—	9,125	35,897
2007	146,311	76,566	1,026	—	9,095	30,833
2008	144,053	70,095	4,214	69	7,683	34,632

Connexions Service: Expenditure

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the Connexions service in respect of information, advice and guidance on *(a)* health, *(b)* careers, *(c)* money, *(d)* relationships, *(e)* learning, *(f)* personal rights, *(g)* housing, *(h)* travel, *(i)* work and *(j)* free time in each year since 2001 for which figures are available. [244441]

Beverley Hughes: We only collect information on the total amount spent on Connexions services and not the detailed breakdown requested. The amount spent on Connexions services in each year since 2001 is as follows:

	Spend (£ million)
2001-02	110
2002-03	337
2003-04	439
2004-05	458
2005-06	464
2006-07	466
2007-08	467
2008-09	469

In addition to the above figures, £5 million per annum has been spent on the Connexions Direct service since the helpline was rolled out nationally in 2004-05.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by his Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243493]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I would direct the hon. Member to the departmental published accounts for 2006-07 and 2007-08 which set out the performance of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in this regard. The Department paid 97.7 per cent. of all valid invoices for goods and services within 30 days in 2006-07 and 98.8 per cent. in 2007-08.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families welcomed the 8 October 2008 statement by the Prime Minister on moving to the payment of invoices within 10 days. The Department is working towards this goal.

DCSF does not currently publish information about the size of its suppliers. We do not discriminate by size of business because many small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can be found within larger supply chains. Alongside speeding up Government payments we are also looking to our main contractors to pass on the benefits to smaller suppliers in their supply chains.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change. The data included in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 accounts also include that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills. The Department does not have any Executive agencies.

Family Intervention Projects

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have applied unsuccessfully for funding to implement family intervention projects and the Think Family reforms. [244526]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities that are delivering family intervention projects did not enter into a bidding process and therefore there were no unsuccessful areas. There were 76 unsuccessful LAs who applied to become a family pathfinder and develop and test the Think Family approach. Since then, funding has been made available through the Youth Crime Action Plan to support every local authority to deliver a family intervention project and the Think Family approach from April 2009.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 15-year-olds *(a)* not entitled and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved (i) five GCSEs at A* to C and (ii) five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics, in each year since 1997. [241630]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information available is given in the following table.

Percentage

	Non-FSM		*FSM*	
	Five GCSE at A-C*	*Five GCSE at A*-C with English and mathematics*	*Five GCSE at A*-C*	*Five GCSE at A*-C with English and mathematics*
2007	62.8	49.0	35.5	21.1
2006	60.7	47.5	32.6	19.5
2005	59.3	46.1	31.1	19.8
2004	56.8	44.8	27.4	16.8
2003	56.0	45.1	25.7	16.7
2002	54.5	43.1	24.1	15.3

Source:
National Pupil Database.

Prior to 2002, the achievement and attainment data was not matched to individual pupil characteristics.

Methadone

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who were subject of serious case reviews died from ingesting methadone in each of the last three years. [244118]

Beverley Hughes: Child deaths which result in a serious case review being undertaken may be due to a range of causes but it is not possible precisely to quantify the number of methadone related child deaths from the information held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Serious case reviews should always be conducted when a child dies and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to factor in the death.

Secondary Education: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools have a specialist full-time careers adviser attached to their staff; [243336]

(2) how many secondary schools have no specialised careers service or careers adviser; [243337]

(3) how many secondary schools have staff employed to teach specific subjects and to act as a careers adviser; [243338]

(4) how many secondary schools have a part-time careers adviser attached to their staff; [243339]

(5) how many teachers are employed in a dual role as a teacher and a careers adviser; [243340]

(6) how many hours teachers who provide careers advice must undergo to do so; [243341]

(7) what training in careers guidance and progression careers advisers in schools receive prior to starting their job; [243342]

(8) what training in careers guidance and progression careers advisers in schools receive during their practice period. [243343]

Beverley Hughes: Responsibility for curriculum organisation and staff training is delegated to local authorities and schools. We do not keep records centrally of how careers advice is provided within all schools or about the numbers, or the skills and knowledge, of teaching staff involved in providing careers advice. However, the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007 shows there are 1,900 teachers delivering at least one period of Careers Education per week. These teachers are also responsible for delivering a wide variety of other subjects of the curriculum.[1]

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the status of specialist careers guidance in secondary schools is; and if he will make a statement. [243344]

Beverley Hughes: Specialist careers guidance is provided by Connexions services who work in partnership with schools to ensure that young people are supported to make decisions about learning and careers that best meet their needs. Partnership agreements between schools and Connexions set out local arrangements for how the partners will work together.

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide a planned programme of careers education from years 7-11. This is delivered principally within the new PSHE: Economic Well Being curriculum. But schools also embed information about learning and careers into other subject teaching and provide additional, personalised support through a range of learning and pastoral support arrangements.

The Government's 14-19 reform programme places considerable emphasis on the importance of all young people receiving high quality, comprehensive and impartial information, advice and guidance on learning and careers. We will be publishing, in spring 2009, our strategy for further improving the provision of help and advice on learning and careers to young people.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on teachers acting as careers advisers; and if he will make a statement. [243345]

Beverley Hughes: If a teacher is called upon to provide advice on learning and careers in the delivery of his/her day-to-day duties, they should consider their competence to respond and offer advice as appropriate. If necessary, they should refer the young person to specialist advisers for an answer.

Special Educational Needs: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided for special education in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West region in the latest period for which figures are available. [245063]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Chorley is not available.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children have a careers interview with an independent adviser before they leave school. [244440]

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[1] The Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) is an occasional survey that has been carried out every four to six years since 1965. The 2007 survey was carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

Beverley Hughes: All young people have access to independent specialist careers advisers through local Connexions services. Connexions provide advice and guidance on a range of issues. Our data shows that around 44 per cent. of young people in year 11 received one to one support in 2007-08 and a further 15 per cent. prior to their entry to year 11. However, these data are not disaggregated to identify the proportion of interventions focused specifically on careers.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by her Office had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244711]

Chris Bryant: The Leader's Office aims to respond to all correspondence received, where an answer is requested or required, including both letters and e-mails, from hon. Members and peers within 15 working days, and within 20 working days to members of the public. As of 15 December there were 85 items of correspondence (including e-mails) awaiting response, of which 82 are expected to be answered within that deadline.

In 2007 the Leader's Office answered 94 per cent. of correspondence from hon. Members and peers within deadline, and 90 per cent. of correspondence from members of the public.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many special advisers were employed in her Office at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what her Office's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243567]

Chris Bryant: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to provide Government time on the Floor of the House to debate *(a)* assisted suicide and *(b)* euthanasia during (i) Session 2008-09 and (ii) Session 2009-10; what representations she has received on the matter since July 2008; and if she will make a statement. [244883]

Chris Bryant: Plans for debates will be announced throughout the Session by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House in the usual way. I understand the interest in this issue and I am aware that the matter has been raised by hon. Members.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each year since its establishment; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242112]

Mr. Simon: Since its creation in June 2007 to date, the Department has made seven paid internships and 11 unpaid work experience places available. For internships, four interns were placed in summer 2007 and three interns in summer 2008. All interns were university-level students in Cabinet Office programmes. For work experience, four year 10 and 11 students were placed from 28 July to December 2007 and five year 10 and 11 students were placed from January to December 2008. The Department did not run a co-ordinated programme for work experience in 2008 but did sponsor a further two students as part of the Windsor Fellowship programme in July 2008. Information on work experience hours is not collected centrally but it is expected that students and graduates would work similar hours to full-time staff on the relevant site and at the discretion of the team to which they have been assigned. Information on students who did not complete their set period of work experience is not collected centrally and, along with the work hours worked, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Payments for internships for 2007 and 2008 were £285 per week in London and £245 per week outside London.

All interns and work experience students and graduates undertook a range of structured and supervised tasks to learn and feedback on the delivery of a range of projects for the Department using the core skills of Professional Skills for Government.

The Department is currently in the process of planning its own work experience programme for 2009.

Further Education: National Insurance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount paid in national insurance contributions by *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* universities in the last 12 months for which figures are available [243985]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no estimates made of the annual amount paid in national insurance contributions by further education colleges or universities, as this is a matter for FECs and HEIs themselves as employers of their own staff.

Nuclear Power: Research

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding the Government has provided for research into nuclear fusion in each of the last five years. [244552]

Mr. Lammy: UK Government expenditure on nuclear fusion research in the last five years is given in the following table. The UK also contributes to the EURATOM fusion research budget through its share of the funding of the European Union.

	£ million
2003-04	15.9
2004-05	22.7
2005-06	20.6
2006-07	25.6
2007-08	25.4

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many doctoral students from Commonwealth countries have received scholarships from his Department in each year since 1997. [243997]

Mr. Lammy: The Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Award scheme has been operating since 2004 through the Research Councils. The Department for Trade and Industry previously had responsibility.

There have been approximately 560 scholar posts to the universities and we have had nationality data from the universities for approximately 420 scholars to date, which reveals 100 from Commonwealth member states.

Research: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much and what proportion of university research income was sourced from *(a)* business and *(b)* charities in each of the last 10 years. [242773]

Mr. Lammy: Statistics on research grants and contracts income are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency in their Finance Statistics Return.

The following table shows for Higher Education Institutions in England, a time series of research grants and contracts income from UK-based charities and UK industry. The information is shown in a separate table.

£ million/percentage

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
UK-based charities	310	338	356	401	462	504	542	577	585	610	645
UK industry, commerce and public corporations	155	170	183	201	215	209	214	204	200	208	220
Total research grants and contracts	1,366	1,431	1,505	1,614	1,812	1,987	2,110	2,211	2,347	2,539	2,744
HEFCE recurrent research income	642	714	831	864	880	888	940	1,037	1,079	1,250	1,344
Total Research income (Research grants and contracts + HEFCE Recurrent R)	2,007	2,145	2,336	2,478	2,693	2,875	3,050	3,248	3,426	3,789	4,088
UK-based charities as a percentage of total research income	15.4	15.8	15.3	16.2	17.1	17.5	17.8	17.8	17.1	16.1	15.8
UK industry as a percentage of total research income	7.7	7.9	7.8	8.1	8.0	7.3	7.0	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.4

Students: Debt

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to review the costs associated with balances owed to the Student Loans Company. [243594]

Mr. Lammy: The legislative provisions for Income Contingent Repayment student loans require that the rate of interest must: (i) be no higher than is necessary to maintain the value of the loan in real terms; and (ii) not exceed 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates of a specified group of banks[1] (the 'low interest cap'). The interest rate is normally set every September to equal the retail prices index for the previous March—currently 3.8 per cent. Following the reduction in the Bank of England base rate by the Monetary Policy Committee on 4 December 2008, all the specified banks have reduced their base rates to 2 per cent. and the low interest cap comes into play. The Student Loans Company (SLC) have therefore reduced the interest rate for income contingent loans from 3.8 per cent. to 3 per cent. with effect from 5 December 2008 until further notice. The SLC have published this information on their website and in national newspapers.

The interest rate for loans taken out before 1998 (known as 'mortgage style loans') is not affected as these loans are governed by different legislation.

[1] Bank of England; Bank of Scotland; Barclays Bank plc; Clydesdale Bank plc; Co-operative Bank plc; Courts and Co; HSBC Bank plc; Lloyds TSB Bank plc; Natwest Bank plc; the Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines *(a)* UK Financial Investments Ltd and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has established to govern bonuses paid to senior bank executives. [243869]

Ian Pearson: On 13 October 2008 the chief executive of the Financial Services Authority wrote to the chief executives of the major banks and building societies, setting out the criteria for remuneration policies and practices which are properly aligned to sound risk management and controls.

UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, will oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, including in relation to remuneration policies of banks' board directors. UKFI will work to ensure management incentivisation based on long-term value maximization, which attracts and retains high quality management and which minimises the potential for rewarding failure.

Credit Rating: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W, on credit rating, what assessment he has made of the outcome of the European Commission's consultation on an EU-wide registration scheme for credit rating agencies. [243803]

Ian Pearson: The Government support registration of credit rating agencies. The Commission's proposals are now being discussed in council working groups.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241239]

Angela Eagle: Spending by Treasury Ministers on hospitality is included within their conference and hospitality budgets covering internal and external conferences, catering and meeting refreshments. Outturn for the years requested are shown in the following table:

	£
2004-05	59,312
2005-06	26,545
2006-07	39,163
2007-08	22,187

GDP deflators necessary to convert the aforementioned figures to current prices can be found at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_annex.htm

Income Tax

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of administering *(a)* the PAYE system, *(b)* the child tax credit system and *(c)* the working tax credit system was in each of the last three years. [241562]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The costs of collecting Income Tax through PAYE in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

	Costs (nearest £ million)
2005-06	851
2006-07	944
2007-08	949

(b) and *(c)* The costs of managing and paying child and working tax credit for the last three years are set out in Notes 3.4 and 3.5 of the Trust Statement to HM Revenue and Customs Accounts for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Revenue and Customs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government has to improve access for hon. Members to assist them in dealing with constituent issues concerning HM Revenue and Customs. [244139]

Mr. Timms: HMRC operate exclusive MP telephone hotlines for tax credit and child benefit issues.

HMRC currently has no plans to create further MP hotlines. However HMRC aim to provide a timely and high quality service to MPs who raise matters on behalf of their constituents with the Department.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 2 June 2000, *Official Report*, column 720W, on Revenue and Customs: correspondence, on what dates and for what amounts tax credit manual payments have been issued to the constituent referred to in the Answer in 2008-09 to date; and how many of these were substitute payments. [244001]

Mr. Timms: The right hon. Gentleman wrote to me about his constituent on 1 December 2008 and I have responded to him in writing today.

Tax Credit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether tax credit helpline call centres have caller identification technology in place. [241461]

Mr. Timms: I can confirm that tax credit helpline call centres do have caller identification technology in place.

Tax Yields

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the difference was between tax owed to and tax received by the Exchequer in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [243688]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs produce figures on amounts of bad and doubtful debts each year. These figures are shown in the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure in the Trust Statement which forms part of its published accounts.

The accounts for 2007-08 (HC 674) which include these figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were published on 14 July 2008. Copies of the accounts are available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Taxation: Football

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to discuss with football authorities payment of tax arrears by professional football clubs. [243687]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not treat football clubs differently from any other business in respect of tax arrears.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT and data security policies and procedures; [240266]

(2) what security controls are in place in respect of each data set his Department holds; and whether such controls are based on the level of risk. [240269]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has an extensive range of policies, standards and procedures for the protection of information (including personal data), and the associated information technology systems. In common with all data controllers formally registered under the Data Protection Act, there are legal obligations placed on the Department to ensure that personal data is properly protected from theft or loss, and the Department takes these responsibilities very seriously. It is not in the interests of data subjects for the Department to publish the detailed methodologies, controls and processes which apply to the protection of information in general and personal information in particular, and the related security policies that apply to information technology systems. To do so could enable individuals to deduce how successful the Department is in protecting its systems, in identifying vulnerabilities, and detecting attacks, and might assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the Department's controls, and thus unlawfully procuring information and data. This would not be in the public interest.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what risk assessment his Department has made in respect of each data set it holds. [240267]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with the Cabinet Office's review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, the Department is required to conduct annual risk assessments of its information assets. A formal statement of the Accounting Officer's overall assessment of the level of information risk will be given in the Department's annual Resource Account for the year ending March 2009. However, it is not in the interests of data security for the Department to publish its detailed assessments of the level of risk attached to specific data sets. To do so could enable individuals to exploit any identified vulnerabilities, and thus unlawfully to obtain information and data. This would not be in the public interest.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242919]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the numbers of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions that have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception is not available in the format requested.

The Department for Work and Pensions records the numbers of staff investigated, suspended and dismissed for misconduct under general headings but does not record this information under the specific categories requested. To extract more detailed information from individual records under the categories requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Following publication of the Data Handling Review in June 2008, the Department is introducing changes to its disciplinary rules and standards of behaviour to reinforce security measures around the handling and safeguarding of customer data and equipment. The

Department's Discipline and Standards of Behaviour policies and procedures in relation to data loss are brought to the attention of staff via the Department's intranet site.

Domestic Safety: Natural Gas

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities as a result of domestic gas accidents there have been in each of the last 10 years. [241939]

Jonathan Shaw: The following information is taken from gas statistics published by HSE from data reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). While most of the reports made relate to domestic incidents some non domestic incidents may have been included. Because of the level of detail recorded on individual RIDDOR reports further separation of the statistics could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Number of non-fatal injuries

	Explosion/ fire	*CO exposure*	*Other exposure*	*Total*
1998-99	30	194	n/a	224
1999-2000	61	228	n/a	289
2000-01	36	265	n/a	301
2001-02	47	169	n/a	216
2002-03	38	138	n/a	176
2003-04	43	174	3	220
2004-05	42	203	5	250
2005-06	29	210	2	241
2006-07	27	184	0	211
2007-08[1]	40	234	15	289

(b) Number of fatalities

	Explosion/ fire	*CO exposure*	*Other exposure*	*Total*
1998-99	11	37	n/a	48
1999-2000	10	26	n/a	36
2000-01	8	25	n/a	33
2001-02	5	22	n/a	27
2002-03	5	20	n/a	25
2003-04	5	11	2	18
2004-05	2	18	1	21
2005-06	4	16	0	20
2006-07	2	10	0	12
2007-08[1]	3	14	3	20

n/a = Not available

[1] Provisional (subject to statistical verification)

Natural Gas: Engineers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of standards in the regulation of domestic gas fitters and engineers; and what consideration he has given to the amendment of the existing regulatory regime. [241938]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive addressed these matters in a review of the domestic gas safety regime in 2006. From April 2009 a reformed and expanded gas installer registration scheme, itself based in gas safety law, will include new arrangements seeking to ensure competent gas work by registered installers.

Occupational Pensions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Pensions Regulator on companies with final salary pension schemes making up shortfalls in assets following the credit crunch. [242854]

Ms Rosie Winterton: DWP Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Pensions Regulator to discuss the regulatory framework, including the ability of companies to make up final salary pension schemes' shortfalls.

The Pensions Regulator published its second analytical document on scheme funding and recovery plans on 11 December 2008. The report is available at the Pensions Regulator's website.

The regulator's analysis of recovery plans shows positive trends in addressing pension deficits but recognises that there are challenges ahead. Reasonable affordability remains the key and the regulator has issued statements on 24 October and 11 December reaffirming the flexibility of the scheme funding regime in relation to current market conditions.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the financial impact on Pathways to Work providers and their clients of the period between when a client first moves into employment and their first received earnings; and what plans he has to amend the rules regarding the cessation of benefit payments to individuals immediately upon entering employment. [243556]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: We have a range of provisions in place to provide financial security for and reassurance to individuals who move from benefit into full-time employment. These include the job grant, mortgage interest run-on and housing and council tax benefit extended payments scheme. All are intended to help bridge the gap between benefit and receipt of first wages, to help individuals adjust to extra financial demands, and to remove any disincentive to claimants to take up employment. Help is available from the Adviser Discretion Fund to provide financial assistance at the point of transition into work, and a return to work credit is also available to ensure work pays once people move from benefit and start work.

We have no immediate plans to amend these rules but will keep them under consideration. No assessment has been made of any impact on Pathways to Work providers.

Pension Credit: Administrative Delays

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of new pension credit claims were not processed within 15 days in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [244540]

Ms Rosie Winterton: While the majority of claims are processed within the actual average clearance time target, there are some cases where it is necessary to request additional information from the customer to ensure they get all the money to which they are entitled.

The time taken to process a claim does not affect the start date of payments. Payment will be backdated to the point the claim was first submitted.

People should claim as soon as they think they are eligible. From October customers can claim four benefits in one free phone call: state pension, pension credit, council tax benefit and housing benefit. In some circumstances, we will also arrange face to face visits to help with completion of the claim.

The information available is in the following table.

Pension credit clearance times

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Target—AACT (days)	10	15
Total processed	334,501	280,097
Not processed within target	68,142	83,182
Not processed within target (percentage)	20	30
AACT (days)	11.9	15.6

Note:
AACT—Actual Average Clearance Time.
Source Data:
Pension Service Legacy System

Pensioners: Tendring

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that pensioners in Tendring are able to pay their winter heating bills; [242616]

(2) what steps he is taking to assist pensioners in Tendring in meeting the cost of their fuel needs. [242617]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments provide a significant contribution to people's heating costs in winter and were created to give pensioners reassurance that they can afford to heat their homes in winter. This winter, an additional payment will be made of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for households with someone aged 80 or over increasing the winter fuel payment to £250 and £400 respectively. Pensioners may also qualify for cold weather payments when there is a spell of very cold weather in their area. This winter, cold weather payments have been increased from £8.50 to £25.

Pensioners can also take advantage of the help available through a range of fuel poverty programmes such as the Warm Front Scheme in England. Increased funding for the Warm Front Scheme was announced in the recent pre-Budget report. This complements the addition of £1 billion of measures announced by the Government in September aimed at helping those vulnerable to fuel poverty.

Pensions

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans his Department has to make the public aware of changes to the regulation of safeguarded rights; [242410]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that pension providers are prepared for changes to the regulation of safeguarded rights. [243830]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will notify all occupational and personal pension schemes of the abolition of safeguarded rights and will issue a press release.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the terms and conditions of the new Post Office card account will be; and how they will differ from those under the current contract; [243866]

(2) when he expects the negotiation process for the Post Office card account contract to conclude. [243867]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently in the process of finalising the details of the contract (including the terms and conditions) with Post Office Ltd.

Both DWP and the Post Office are aiming to finalise the contract as quickly as possible.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in *(a)* each of the last 12 quarters and *(b)* in each month of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [241198]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Average time for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in Great Britain in each of the last 12 quarters

Quarter ending	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
December 2005	1.4
March 2006	1.4
June 2006	1.4
September 2006	1.4
December 2006	1.6
March 2007	1.6
June 2007	1.6
September 2007	1.7
December 2007	1.7
March 2008	1.8
June 2008	1.9
September 2008	1.8

Average time for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in Great Britain in each month of the last three years

Month	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
December 2005	1.4
January 2006	1.4
February 2006	1.4
March 2006	1.4
April 2006	1.3
May 2006	1.4
June 2006	1.5
July 2006	1.4
August 2006	1.4
September 206	1.4
October 2006	1.5
November 2006	1.6
December 2006	1.7
January 2007	1.6
February 2007	1.5
March 2007	1.7
April 2007	1.6
May 2007	1.6
June 2007	1.5

Average time for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in Great Britain in each month of the last three years

Month	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
July 2007	1.6
August 2007	1.7
September 2007	1.7
October 2007	1.6
November 2007	1.7
December 2007	1.8
January 2008	1.7
February 2008	1.8
March 2008	1.8
April 2008	1.9
May 2008	1.8
June 2008	2.0
July 2008	1.9
August 2008	1.8
September 2008	1.7
October 2008	1.8
November 2008	1.7

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual Crisis Loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer and, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual Crisis Loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each period, not on applications received during that period.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Unemployed: Qualifications

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate of (i) lone fathers, (ii) lone mothers and (iii) lone parents with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 years to state retirement age in each quarter for the last 10 years. [241705]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate of (i) lone fathers (ii) lone mothers and (iii) lone parents with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer aged (A) 16 to 24 (B) 25 to 34 (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 years to state retirement age in each quarter for the last 10 years. (241705)

The available information is provided in the attached table.

The information requested has been answered using annual estimates derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household dataset, which are only available from 2004. Quarterly estimates derived from the Labour Force Survey are of insufficient quality for answering this question due to the detail requested. Estimates for lone fathers derived from the APS are unreliable at this detailed level and have not been provided.

It is vital to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. Estimates should be treated with caution when comparing two time periods as observed changes may not be statistically significant.

Employment and unemployment rates[1] for all lone parents and lone mothers with the equivalent of five GCSEs or fewer, by age group, January to December for each year 2004 to 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	16-24		*25-34*		*35-49*	
	Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
Lone Parents						
2004	16	31	35	17	49	11
2005	18	30	33	15	51	9
2006	20	33	31	20	50	12
2007[3]	**20	***30	*30	**19	*49	**12
Lone Mothers						
2004	16	32	35	16	49	10
2005	18	30	33	15	51	8
2006	19	35	30	20	49	11
2007[3]	**20	***28	*30	***19	*49	**12

Percentage

	50-59/64[2]		*Total*	
	Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
Lone Parents				
2004	45	6	41	13
2005	43	8	41	12
2006	48	6	40	15
2007[3]	**46	****7	*40	**15
Lone Mothers				
2004	41	8	40	13
2005	42	7	41	11

Percentage

	50-59/64[2]		*Total*	
	Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
2006	46	7	39	15
2007[3]	**43	****8	*39	**15

[1] Employment rate is calculated as number of people in employment with 5 GCSEs or fewer as a percentage of the population in the individual age group with 5 GCSEs or fewer. The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people unemployed with 5 GCSEs or fewer as a percentage of the economically active population in the individual age group with 5 GCSEs or fewer.

[2] Men aged 50-64 and women aged 50-59.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

Sample size too small to provide estimates for lone fathers.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Bank Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 492-3W, on charities: bank services, if he will place in the Library the background information on the charities. [241673]

Kevin Brennan: I am unable to place this information in the Library as the details of the charities affected were given to us in confidence on the basis that they would not be made public. Some organisations have expressed concern about the reputational risk of disclosing information about their investments and I am obliged to respect their confidence. The right hon. Member will be aware that a new charity action group, called Save Our Savings (SOS), has been formed to represent charities that have deposits at risk with Kauthpthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited. The Save Our Savings campaign is led by Cats Protection and Naomi House Children's Hospice.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 492-3W, on charities: bank services, what the names of the 46 charities are. [241674]

Kevin Brennan: I am unable to provide the names of the charities affected as they were given to us in confidence on the basis that they would not be made public. Some organisations have expressed concern about the reputational risk of disclosing information about their investments and I am obliged to respect their confidence. The right hon. Member will be aware that a new charity action group, called Save Our Savings (SOS), has been formed to represent charities that have deposits at risk with Kauthpthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited. The Save Our Savings campaign is led by Cats Protection and Naomi House Children's Hospice.

Charities: Terrorism

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many registered UK charities have been investigated by the Charity Commission in consequence of allegations of links with terrorist organisations in each year since 2001. [241809]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 12 December 2008:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on charities with alleged links to terrorism.

As you will understand, this aspect of our work is of a highly sensitive nature. We are limited in the amount of information we can provide, as we have to ensure that we do not prejudice our ongoing operational work and also the work being carried out by law enforcement and other agencies. Charities are not always aware of allegations of terrorist links so we do not publish statistics about the number of investigations or cases of this nature.

The Commission has powers to conduct formal, statutory inquiries under section 8 of the Charities Act 1993. Where we are able to, it is now our policy to publish reports stating the results of these inquiries. We also responded publicly in connection with the Home Office review and consultation in May 2007 on safeguarding the charitable sector from terrorist abuse. We were able to confirm that at that time the Commission had concluded 16 investigations relating to charities facing allegations of connections to terrorist activity over the past ten years. These included for example, the inquiry into Finsbury Park Mosque, where we removed Abu Hamza from his position at the mosque.

An example of a recent inquiry report which included issues of alleged links to terrorism is the inquiry into the UK Tamils Student Union (published 2007). Another is the report on Al Ikhlas Foundation, (published in October), which is still available via our website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk under inquiry reports.

Furthermore, we have begun annually to publish a report on the work of our compliance teams (who deal, among other issues, with cases involving alleged links with terrorism). The first of these reports, Charities Back on Track, was published earlier this year. It explains that of the 42 statutory inquiries reports that we published last year, one was related to allegations of links to terrorism. Charities Back on Track is also available on our website and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House of Commons library.

I hope this is helpful.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by No. 10 Downing Street in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243357]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister and his office.

The Cabinet Office system is not set up to identify the size of a business.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on written questions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard Cabinet Office intranet (Cabweb) guidance on answering round robin Parliamentary Questions. [241904]

Kevin Brennan: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Futurebuilders: Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding Futurebuilders has written off in total in relation to the charity Catz Club. [241591]

Kevin Brennan: The Futurebuilders Fund is managed by Futurebuilders England Ltd. (FBE) under contract to the Cabinet Office and all Futurebuilders investment decisions are made by FBE.

FBE invested a total of £1,536,000 in Catz Club, which consisted of a capital grant of £170,000 and a loan of £1,366,000. The total funding written off by FBE in relation to the charity Catz Club is £841,979.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consideration the Futurebuilders Advisory Panel has made of the funding given by Futurebuilders to the charity Catz Club. [241593]

Mr. Byrne: The Futurebuilders Advisory Panel was an advisory non-departmental public body established in March 2005 to provide independent advice to Ministers on the Futurebuilders programme. As part of the rationalisation of advisory bodies in the Office of the Third Sector, the Futurebuilders Advisory Panel held its last meeting on 1 April 2008.

The terms of reference of the panel were to:

Advise on progress, effectiveness and future developments relating to the (Futurebuilders) Fund;

Scrutinise and evaluate the activities of the Fund; and to

Influence the development of the Fund.

The Advisory Panel did not consider individual investment decisions made by Futurebuilders England Ltd.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood, (Mr. Hurd) of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Catz Club, for what reasons Futurebuilders decided to terminate its relationship with Catz Club. [241888]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on 24 November, *Official Report*, column 1124W.

Statistics: Unemployed

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what definition of long-term unemployed is used to produce statistics on long-term unemployed people; and how those statistics are calculated. [244068]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, asking what definition of long-term unemployed is used to produce statistics on long-term unemployed people: and how those statistics are calculated. (244068)

Official estimates of unemployment are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). They are calculated in accordance with the definition agreed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), that is, people are unemployed if they are without a job, want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks, or if they are out of work, have found a job and are going to start it in the next two weeks.

The duration of unemployment is measured in terms of calendar months and years and relates to the length of time looking for work, and the length of time since the respondent's last job.

The ONS has no official definition for long-term unemployment. However, for the LFS, long-term unemployment is usually regarded as unemployment with a duration of one year or more.

Under the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) there is a category for "long-term unemployed" but users must decide their own definition, according to their research purposes.

Unemployment

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years was in each month of the last 10 years. [241444]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 34 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years was in each month of the last 10 years. (241444)

The attached table provides estimated employment and unemployment rates for the categories requested, for each quarter since 1998. Monthly data is not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the figures from quarter 3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment and unemployment rates[1], by age and sex, three months ending March, June, September and December, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		16 to 24		*25 to 34*	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
	People				
1998	Q1	61	13	78	7
	Q2	61	13	78	6
	Q3	65	15	78	6
	Q4	63	13	79	6
1999	Q1	61	13	79	6
	Q2	61	13	79	6
	Q3	65	14	80	6
	Q4	63	12	80	6
2000	Q1	61	13	80	6
	Q2	61	12	80	5
	Q3	65	13	80	5
	Q4	62	12	80	5
2001	Q1	61	12	80	5
	Q2	62	11	80	5
	Q3	64	13	80	5
	Q4	63	12	80	5
2002	Q1	61	12	79	5
	Q2	61	11	80	5
	Q3	64	14	79	5
	Q4	63	12	80	5
2003	Q1	60	13	79	5
	Q2	60	12	79	5
	Q3	63	14	80	5
	Q4	62	11	80	5
2004	Q1	60	12	80	5
	Q2	60	11	80	4
	Q3	63	14	80	4
	Q4	61	12	80	5
2005	Q1	59	12	80	4
	Q2	59	12	80	4
	Q3	61	14	80	4
	Q4	59	14	80	4
2006	Q1	58	13	80	5
	Q2	58	14	80	5
	Q3	61	16	80	5
	Q4	59	14	80	5
2007	Q1	57	14	80	5
	Q2	56	14	80	5
	Q3	59	16	80	4
	Q4	59	13	81	4
2008	Q1	57	13	81	5
	Q2	56	14	81	5
	Q3	59	17	80	5
	Men				
1998	Q1	63	15	87	7
	Q2	63	15	87	7
	Q3	68	16	88	7
	Q4	64	15	88	6
1999	Q1	63	15	88	6
	Q2	63	15	88	6
	Q3	68	15	89	6
	Q4	66	13	89	6
2000	Q1	64	14	88	6
	Q2	64	13	88	5
	Q3	68	14	89	5
	Q4	65	13	89	5
2001	Q1	63	14	88	5
	Q2	64	12	88	5
	Q3	67	15	88	5
	Q4	65	13	88	6
2002	Q1	63	14	88	6
	Q2	63	13	88	5
	Q3	65	15	88	5
	Q4	65	13	89	5
2003	Q1	61	15	87	6
	Q2	62	13	88	5
	Q3	65	15	88	5
	Q4	63	13	87	5
2004	Q1	62	13	87	5
	Q2	62	12	87	5
	Q3	65	15	87	4
	Q4	63	13	88	5
2005	Q1	61	14	88	5
	Q2	61	14	88	4
	Q3	63	16	88	4
	Q4	61	15	89	4
2006	Q1	59	15	88	5
	Q2	59	16	88	5
	Q3	63	17	88	5
	Q4	61	15	88	5
2007	Q1	59	16	88	6

Employment and unemployment rates[1], by age and sex, three months ending March, June, September and December, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		16 to 24		*25 to 34*	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
	Q2	58	16	89	4
	Q3	61	17	89	4
	Q4	60	15	89	4
2008	Q1	58	16	89	5
	Q2	58	16	88	5
	Q3	60	19	87	5
	Women				
1998	Q1	59	11	69	6
	Q2	59	12	69	6
	Q3	63	13	69	6
	Q4	61	11	70	5
1999	Q1	59	11	71	6
	Q2	58	11	71	5
	Q3	63	12	72	5
	Q4	61	11	72	5
2000	Q1	59	12	71	5
	Q2	59	10	72	5
	Q3	62	13	72	4
	Q4	60	11	72	4
2001	Q1	59	10	71	4
	Q2	59	9	72	4
	Q3	61	12	71	5
	Q4	61	10	71	4
2002	Q1	59	10	71	5
	Q2	59	9	71	5
	Q3	62	12	71	5
	Q4	60	10	71	4
2003	Q1	58	10	72	4
	Q2	58	10	71	4
	Q3	60	12	72	4
	Q4	60	10	72	4
2004	Q1	59	10	72	4
	Q2	58	10	72	4
	Q3	60	13	72	4
	Q4	60	11	72	4
2005	Q1	58	10	73	4
	Q2	57	11	72	4
	Q3	59	12	72	4
	Q4	57	12	72	5
2006	Q1	57	11	72	5
	Q2	57	12	73	5
	Q3	58	14	72	5
	Q4	58	12	72	5
2007	Q1	56	12	72	5
	Q2	55	13	72	5
	Q3	58	14	72	5
	Q4	57	12	72	4
2008	Q1	56	11	73	5
	Q2	55	12	73	5
	Q3	57	15	72	6

Percentage

		35 to 49		*50-64*	
		Employment rate	*Unemployment rate*	*Employment rate*	*Unemployment rate*
	People				
1998	Q1	81	4	67	5
	Q2	81	4	67	4
	Q3	81	4	68	4
	Q4	81	4	68	4
1999	Q1	81	5	68	4
	Q2	81	4	68	4
	Q3	81	4	68	4
	Q4	82	4	68	4
2000	Q1	81	4	68	4
	Q2	82	4	69	4
	Q3	82	4	69	4
	Q4	82	3	69	4
2001	Q1	82	4	69	3
	Q2	82	4	70	3
	Q3	82	3	69	3
	Q4	82	3	70	3
2002	Q1	82	4	69	3
	Q2	82	4	70	3
	Q3	82	4	70	3
	Q4	82	3	70	4
2003	Q1	82	3	70	4
	Q2	82	3	71	3
	Q3	82	3	71	3
	Q4	82	3	71	3
2004	Q1	82	3	71	3
	Q2	82	3	71	3
	Q3	82	3	71	3
	Q4	82	3	72	3

Percentage

		35 to 49		50-60	
		Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2005	Q1	82	3	72	3
	Q2	82	3	72	3
	Q3	83	3	72	3
	Q4	82	3	72	3
2006	Q1	82	4	72	3
	Q2	82	4	73	3
	Q3	82	4	72	3
	Q4	82	4	72	3
2007	Q1	82	4	72	3
	Q2	82	3	72	3
	Q3	82	3	72	3
	Q4	82	3	73	3
2008	Q1	82	4	73	3
	Q2	83	4	73	3
	Q3	82	4	73	3
	Men				
1998	Q1	87	5	74	6
	Q2	87	5	75	5
	Q3	87	5	75	5
	Q4	88	5	76	5
1999	Q1	87	5	76	5
	Q2	88	5	75	5
	Q3	88	5	75	5
	Q4	88	4	75	5
2000	Q1	88	4	75	5
	Q2	89	4	75	5
	Q3	89	4	76	5
	Q4	89	4	76	4
2001	Q1	89	4	77	4
	Q2	88	4	77	4
	Q3	88	4	77	4
	Q4	88	4	77	3
2002	Q1	88	4	76	4
	Q2	88	4	77	4
	Q3	88	4	77	4
	Q4	89	4	77	4
2003	Q1	88	4	77	3
	Q2	89	4	78	4
	Q3	89	4	78	4
	Q4	89	3	77	3
2004	Q1	89	3	77	3
	Q2	88	3	78	4
	Q3	88	3	78	3
	Q4	89	3	78	3
2005	Q1	89	3	78	4
	Q2	88	3	79	3
	Q3	89	3	79	3
	Q4	88	4	79	3
2006	Q1	88	4	79	3
	Q2	88	4	79	3
	Q3	89	4	78	4
	Q4	88	4	78	4
2007	Q1	89	4	78	4
	Q2	89	3	78	4
	Q3	89	3	78	4
	Q4	89	3	79	4
2008	Q1	89	3	78	4
	Q2	89	4	79	4
	Q3	88	4	79	4
	Women				
1998	Q1	74	4	59	3
	Q2	74	4	60	3
	Q3	74	4	60	3
	Q4	75	4	60	3
1999	Q1	75	4	61	3
	Q2	75	4	61	3
	Q3	74	4	60	3
	Q4	75	4	61	3
2000	Q1	75	4	61	3
	Q2	75	4	62	3
	Q3	75	4	62	3
	Q4	75	3	62	3
2001	Q1	75	4	62	2
	Q2	76	3	63	2
	Q3	75	3	62	2
	Q4	75	3	63	3
2002	Q1	76	3	63	3
	Q2	76	3	63	3
	Q3	75	3	63	3
	Q4	76	3	64	3
2003	Q1	76	3	64	3
	Q2	76	3	65	2
	Q3	77	3	65	3
	Q4	76	3	64	2
2004	Q1	76	3	65	2

		25 to 49		50-60	Percentage
		Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
	Q2	76	3	65	2
	Q3	77	3	65	2
	Q4	76	3	65	2
2005	Q1	76	3	65	2
	Q2	76	3	66	2
	Q3	77	3	66	2
	Q4	77	3	65	2
2006	Q1	77	3	66	2
	Q2	76	4	66	3
	Q3	76	5	66	3
	Q4	76	4	67	3
2007	Q1	76	4	67	3
	Q2	76	4	67	2
	Q3	76	4	67	3
	Q4	76	4	67	3
2008	Q1	76	4	67	3
	Q2	77	3	68	2
	Q3	76	5	68	3

[1] Employment rate is calculated as the number of people in employment as a percentage of the population in the individual age group. The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued in each of the last four years; and how many have not been paid in each year. [243325]

Maria Eagle: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued and not paid within the suspended enforcement period in England and Wales for each year from 2004 to 2007 (latest published) are in the table.

Under the PND Scheme, recipients have 21 days in which either to pay the penalty or request a court hearing. If no action is taken, a fine of one and a half times the penalty amount is registered against an offender by the magistrates court. The overall fine payment rate at court is 87 per cent.; the courts fine registration system cannot differentiate between those fines arising from unpaid PNDs and any other fine.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders of all ages and not paid[1] in England and Wales, 2004 to 2007[2]

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders of all ages and not paid[1] in England and Wales, 2004 to 2007[2]

	Issued	Not paid
2004	63,639	30,561
2005	146,481	69,234
2006	201,307	96,651
2007	207,544	100,619

[1] Not paid = not paid within the suspended enforcement period. For a further breakdown, please see table 7.2 of the Criminal Statistics 2007 publication.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Community Orders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* breach rate of community sentences and *(b)* imprisonment rate for those who breached community sentences was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [243284]

Mr. Hanson: In response to part *(a)* of the question, the following table shows the proportion of community sentences that terminated in England and Wales in 2007 (the latest year for which the figures are available) for positive and negative reasons, including failing to comply with the order and conviction for further offences.

The information contained in this table can be found in chapter 5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 located online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Terminations of court orders by reason, England and Wales, 2007

	Number of persons and percentages
Community Rehabilitation Order	
Ran their full course	77
Replaced by conditional discharge order	0
Terminated early for:	
Good progress	6
Failure to comply with requirements	6
Conviction of offence	6
Other reasons	4
All CROs (=100%) (number)	9,380
Community Rehabilitation Order element of Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order	
Ran their full course	65
Replaced by conditional discharge order	0
Terminated early for:	
Good progress	6
Failure to comply with requirements	12
Conviction of offence	10
Other reasons	7
All CPROs (=100%) (number)	3,171
Community Punishment Order	
Specified hours completed	46
Failure to comply with requirements	21
Conviction of an offence	10
Other change in circumstances	3
Warrant unexecuted	5
Other reason	16
All CPOs (=100%) (number)	9,967

Terminations of court orders by reason, England and Wales, 2007

	Number of persons and percentages
Community Punishment Order element of Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order	
Specified hours completed	40
Failure to comply with requirements	20
Conviction of an offence	14
Other change in circumstances	3
Warrant unexecuted	3
Other reason	19
All CPROs (=100%) (number)	2,510
Community Order	
Ran their full course	47
Terminated early for:	
Good progress	10
Failure to comply with requirements	22
Conviction of an offence	12
Other reasons	10
All Community orders (=100%) (number)	113,829
Suspended Sentence Order	
Ran their full course	46
Terminated early for:	
Good progress	6
Failure to comply with requirements	22
Conviction of an offence	18
Other reasons	9
All Suspended sentence orders (=100%) (number)	28,269
DTTO	
Ran their full course	59

In response to *(b)*, the data held centrally on terminations of community sentences does not include information on whether the termination resulted in imprisonment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 744-45W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242158]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Information is only available for a proportion of the Ministry of Justice estate.

During the financial year 2007-08, 1,846 temporary staff were recruited utilising the Department's contract with Kelly Services. The average period of employment was 1.7 months.

Data in respect of how many staff were recruited under the Home Office framework contract, through each company and the average period of employment can be provided only at disproportionate cost, as this data was not held centrally in the required period. This information can be determined internally only by examining each individual purchase order raised in the period. Undertaking this activity would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each year since its inception; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242118]

Mr. Wills: Since the inception of the Department in May 2007, the Ministry of Justice has taken on 11 individuals on centrally co-ordinated, paid placements. Not all work experience is organised centrally.

Other opportunities are offered by business areas, but this information is not collated centrally and could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007 the Department took on two Windsor Fellows and three interns from the Cabinet Office co-ordinated Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme; and in 2008 it took on six interns from the Cabinet Office co-ordinated Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme.

All interns worked a 36-hour week with lunch breaks.

The type of work they were involved in is given in the following table.

Intern	*Business Area*	*Work Undertaken*
2007		
Intern 1	Probate Service Area Office	Reviewed and analysed information, wrote a report on findings.
Intern 2	Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman	Collated and analysed information, produced a report of findings.
Intern 3	Economics and Statistics Division	Conducted economic research and market analysis, and wrote a report on findings.
Intern 4	Learning and Development Division	Assisted in reviewing, designing and implementing a course.
Intern 5	Equality, Diversity and Humans Rights Division	Compiled response to proposals in a Green Paper. Co-ordinated work arising out of a review. Supported team in implementing a strategy.
2008		
Intern 1	Tribunals Service	Project work—reviewed processes, analysed problems, produced a report of findings.
Intern 2	Tribunals Service	Project team member—drafted Equality Impact Assessment and Project's Benefits Management Strategy, updated risk registers, supported members of the team
Intern 3	Area Director's Office, Civil and Family	Project work—took forward and supported a number of small projects

Intern	*Business Area*	*Work Undertaken*
Intern 4	Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Division	Helped team set up workshops and other events. Supported team in preparing the Secretary of States' Report on Disability.
Intern 5	OCJR	Helped facilitate and organise a National Conference. Supported the commissioning, collation and analysis of cross-governmental contributions to an annual report.
Intern 6	Analytical Services Directorate	Completed a business plan, carried out Research Quality Assurance on the plan, provided support to a best value tendering project.

The proportion in full-time education was 40 per cent. in 2007 and 50 per cent. in 2008.

All individuals completed their set period of work experience.

In 2007 the remuneration received was on average £371 and in 2008, £390.

Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* representations he has received from and *(b)* discussions he has had since October 2008 with hon. and right hon. Members wishing to amend the Coroners and Justice Bill to (i) repeal and (ii) clarify the provisions of the existing tow on the prohibition of assisted suicide; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [242670]

Maria Eagle: I have received four letters from hon. Members and right hon. Members during this period. Of these, one was on behalf of a constituent who wanted the law to be changed so that terminally ill people have the right to seek medical assistance to die; and three were on behalf of constituents who were concerned about the application of the law in this area to websites promoting suicide and suicide methods.

With regard to the issue of legalising assisted suicide, the Government believe that this is an issue of individual conscience and hence a matter for Parliament to decide. Proposals to legalise doctor-assisted dying have been debated in Parliament on a number of occasions but none of the previous private Members' Bills has progressed further than Second Reading. As to the concerns about possible links between suicide and the internet, I informed the House on 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 142WS, that we intend to update the language of the Suicide Act in a way which we hope will make clear that it applies as much to online actions as it does offline. I have had one meeting with an hon. Member about this.

Human Trafficking: Refuges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of human trafficking have gone missing whilst in safe accommodation in each of the last five years. [243306]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of victims of human trafficking who have gone missing over the past five years is not collected.

Human Trafficking: Telephone Services

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government has recently considered establishing a helpline in order to provide information for victims of trafficking. [243304]

Maria Eagle: The Government funded Poppy project already has a well known telephone number that is used in awareness campaigns and for information for victims.

Offenders: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the number of *(a)* ex-offenders living in the principal seaside towns, *(b)* ex-offenders per 10,000 population in such towns and *(c)* ex-offenders per 10,000 population nationally. [244316]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1238-39W, which stated:

> "Prisons record the address to which discharged prisoners state they will be going, but are not able to confirm whether ex-offenders actually go to this address or whether they remain there.
>
> Individual probation areas maintain records of offenders who are serving community punishments or who are under supervision following release from prison on licence, but do not generally keep records of ex-offenders. Those records that they do maintain are on an area basis rather than a specific town.
>
> We therefore have no basis on which to estimate the number of ex-offenders living in specific locations."

Powers of Attorney

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what further steps he will take to reduce the time taken by the Office of the Public Guardian for the registration of lasting powers of attorney. [243111]

Bridget Prentice: Currently the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) aims to register all Lasting Powers of Attorney that do not contain defects within nine weeks of receipt. This includes a statutory six-week waiting period during which objections to registration can be made.

Where there are defects within an application we aim to inform parties of the problem within two weeks of receipt. Timescales for the processing of applications beyond that point will be dependent upon the nature of the defect and how easily it can be rectified. The OPG has already changed its processes in relation to applications with rectifiable defects to trigger the statutory waiting period from the same point as for valid applications. Previous practice was to wait until the fault was resolved before triggering the waiting period. This has potentially reduced the time taken to register applications containing defects (where they can be resolved) by up to six weeks.

The OPG is undertaking a review of the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to determine how well the Act's aims are being met in practice. Among the areas to be looked at are the current LPA forms and the processes by which they are made and registered. We will be considering carefully to what extent the time taken to register applications can be reduced as part of this work.

However we need to keep in mind that the six-week statutory waiting period forms a large part of the current timescale. This is an important safeguard and allows objections to be made to the Public Guardian in relation to the application. We would need to think carefully about whether this period could be reduced significantly without limiting its value.

Prison Service: Industrial Relations

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what industrial relations agreements are in place between his Department and the Prison Service on the one hand and *(a)* the Prison Officers Association and *(b)* the Prison Governors Association on the other; and what contractual or other rights (i) the Prison Officers Association and (ii) the Prison Governors Association have with regard to access to the Prison Service Pay Review Body. [243616]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS recognises the POA for collective bargaining purposes. However, following the POA's withdrawal from the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement in May, there is no formal industrial relations agreement in place. However, a new local (prison level) disputes procedure was agreed and implemented in November 2007 and further negotiations will take place on developing a new national disputes procedure.

There is a Voluntary Agreement in place between the Prison Service and the PGA, which includes arrangements for progressing industrial relations disputes.

The Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) was set up by means of statutory instrument in April 2001. There is no contractual right for the Prison Officers Association or the Prison Governors Association to access the PSPRB.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the number of people who *(a)* started and *(b)* completed offending behaviour programmes (i) in prison and (ii) on probation in each of the last five years; and what the rate of re-offending was for each, broken down by type of programme. [243282]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables sets out the estimated number of starts or commencements and completions for accredited offending behaviour and drug treatment programmes in prison and probation from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Prison

	Programme	*Starts*[1]	*Completions*
2003-04	Offending Behaviour	10,253	9,638
	Drug Treatment	[illegible]	2,418
2004-05	Offending Behaviour	8,885	8,352
	Drug Treatment	7,609	4,902
2005-06	Offending Behaviour	8,448	7,941
	Drug Treatment	10,743	8,011
2006-07	Offending Behaviour	9,155	8,609
	Drug Treatment	11,150	8,349
2007-08	Offending Behaviour	9,376	8,658
	Drug Treatment	11,319	8,110

[1] The figures for offending behaviour programme starts are estimates

Probation

	Programme	*Commencements*	*Completions*
2003-04	Domestic violence	360	178
	Sex offender	1,051	624
	Other[1]	20,880	12,243
2004-05	Domestic violence	621	298
	Sex offender	981	803
	Other	20,123	13,717
2005-06	Domestic violence	1,553	586
	Sex offender	1,155	763
	Other	16,369	12,252
2006-07	Domestic violence	2,972	1,817
	Sex offender	1,417	1,301
	Other	19,919	16,753
2007-08	Domestic violence	3,955	2,560
	Sex offender	1,582	1,360
	Other	19,799	14,531

[1] Other includes general offending behaviour programmes, substance misuse programmes and violence programmes

There will be a difference between the two sets of figures as offenders may begin and complete a programme in different years and some offenders will fail to complete the programme. The reasons for non completion vary but include, transfer, breach of programme requirement, removal of programme requirement by the court or receipt of a custodial or other sentence. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Reconviction rates are not measured on a programme by programme basis. Instead NOMS relies on research evidence to determine effectiveness.

Prisons: Construction

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the expected annual capital cost of the prison building programme in each year between 2007-08 and 2014-15. [244178]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the current estimated capital cost of the capacity programme in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2011-12. This does not include capital costs for the three prison clusters, but does include an allowance for the purchase of land for the first prison cluster.

Current Forecast	*Capital (£ million)*
2007-08	373.39
2008-09	413.25
2009-10	494.44
2010-11	327.02
2011-12	295.3

Prisons: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places his Department expects to be available in Essex in each year from 2007 to 2012. [243904]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans at present to expand HMPYOI Chelmsford and HMPYOI Bullwood Hall, which have a combined operational capacity of 923.

We are currently undertaking searches for appropriate sites for three prison clusters (formerly known as Titans) in regions of high strategic need, including London and the South East, but no final decisions have yet been made.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the additional cost per prison placement of treating in prison a prisoner with a severe psychiatric disorder. [240745]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

No estimate has been made. A person whose mental illness is too severe to justify their remaining in prison is transferred to national health service secure services. All mental health services within prisons have now been mainstreamed with the NHS, and it is the responsibility of the relevant primary care trust to commission these services.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is provided for prison officers who deal with offenders with severe psychotic disorders; and what the cost of such training was in the latest period for which figures are available. [240747]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Over £600,000 funding has been available over three years to provide mental health awareness training for prison officers and staff. This funding is available for 2008-09 and will continue to provide staff with training and the skills to better understand and support prisoners with mental health problems in custody.

Prisons: Per Capita Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average cost was of keeping a prisoner for a day in each *(a)* prison establishment and *(b)* young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [243280]

(2) what the average cost was of keeping a person in prison for *(a)* one week and *(b)* one year in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [243286]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the cost per prisoner per day for each prison establishment and young offender institution for 2007-08.

The overall average resource cost per prisoner in England and Wales in 2007-08 was £39,000 (to the nearest £500) this equates to £750 per week (to the nearest £10).

There are a number of factors which will cause differences in prison costs, such as the size, age, location and category of the prison, the mix of prisoners (including gender and age) and the internal regime and rehabilitation work followed.

The costs comprise (a) the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the HMPS annual report and accounts, increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service and (b) the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded in order to show the overall cost to the Ministry of Justice. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

Establishment name	*Total cost per prisoner per day (£)*
Male category B (9)	
Albany	102
Dovegate[1]	90
Garth	122
Gartree	114
Grendon	113
Kingston	125
Lowdham Grange[1]	86
Parkhurst	122
Rye Hill[1]	84
Male category C (38)	
Acklington	83
Ashwell	77
Blundeston	94
Buckley Hall	107
Bullwood Hall	146
Camp Hill	82
Canterbury	106
Channings Wood	92
Coldingley	112
Dartmoor	89
Edmunds Hill	93
Erlestoke	90
Everthorpe	82
Featherstone	86
Guys Marsh	82
Haverigg	95
Highpoint	79
Kennet[2]	253
Lancaster	129
Lindholme	92
Littlehey	76
Maidstone	100
Moorland	93

Establishment name	*Total cost per prisoner per day (£)*
Mount	93
Onley	101
Ranby	82
Risley	80
Shepton Mallet	127
Stafford	81
Stocken	93
Usk/Prescoed	83
Verne	76
Wayland	80
Wealstun	94
Wellingborough	86
Wharton	88
The Wolds[1]	104
Wymott	85
Male dispersal (5)	
Frankland	201
Full Sutton	199
Long Lartin	226
Wakefield	156
Whitemoor	273
Female closed (5)	
Bronzefield[1]	160
Cookham Wood[1]	464
Downview	128
Foston Hall	160
Send	149
Female local (5)	
Eastwood Park	130
Holloway	212
Low Newton	160
New Hall	152
Styal	131
Female open (2)	
Askham Grange	133
East Sutton Park	81
Male closed YOI (14)	
Aylesbury	137
Brinsford	143
Castington	148
Deerbolt	128
Feltham	215
Glen Parva	97
Hindley	142
Lancaster Farms	147
Northallerton	91
Portland	121
Reading	132
Rochester	112
Stoke Heath	109
Swinfen Hall	100
Male juvenile (5)	
Ashfield[1]	169
Huntercombe	144
Warren Hill	153
Werrington	176
Wetherby	133
Male local (36)	
Altcourse[1]	101
Bedford	91
Belmarsh	192
Birmingham	86
Blakenhurst	83
Bristol	109
Brixton	108
Bullingdon	93
Cardiff	85
Chelmsford	111
Doncaster[1]	86
Dorchester	127
Durham	94
Exeter	109
Forest Bank[1]	70
Gloucester	119
High Down	116
Holme House	88
Hull	83
Leeds	96
Leicester	100
Lewes	104
Lincoln	90
Liverpool	79
Manchester	110
Norwich	117
Nottingham	112
Parc[1]	109
Pentonville	103
Preston	101
Shrewsbury	96
Swansea	88
Wandsworth	86
Winchester	114
Woodhill	159
Wormwood Scrubs	96
Male open (6)	
Ford	73
Hollesley Bay	101
Kirkham	100
Leyhill	107
North Sea Camp	83
Sudbury	65
Male open YOI (1)	
Thorn Cross	165
Semi open (7)	
Blantyre House	104
Dover	102
Drake Hall	113
Haslar	116
Kirklevington	87

Establishment name	*Total cost per prisoner per day (£)*
Latchmere House	90
Morton Hall	99
Cluster (2)	
Hewell	121
Sheppey	90
Mixed Male local and Female closed	
Peterborough[1]	92

[1] Denotes contracted-out prisons.

[2] Kennet: Opened in July 2007, therefore resulting in abnormal unit costs.

[3] Includes costs relating to re-role from female to male establishment.

Notes:

1. Establishments are categorised by their main role as at the end of 2007-08. Establishments that have more than one role have been placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. For example, HMP Moorland is designated as category C adult but includes a large young offender population. For this reason, performance of prisons within a category cannot necessarily be compared on a like for like basis.
2. YOI refers to young offender institutions.
3. Data for Elmley, Stanford Hill and Swaleside is reported under the Sheppey cluster. Similarly, data for Brockhill and Hewell Grange is reported together as a cluster, listed as Hewell.
4. There are a number of factors which will cause differences in prison costs, such as the size, age, location and category of the prison, the prisoner population (including gender and age) and the internal regime and rehabilitation work followed.

Prisons: Suicide

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many self-inflicted deaths there were in (a) all prisons, (b) young offender institutions, (c) male prisons and (d) female prisons in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [243777]

Mr. Hanson: Due to the mixed roll of some prisons and changes in those roles over time the numbers for each category used in this question can be answered in several ways. It would also, as worded, exclude four self-inflicted deaths in custody for the period which occurred while on escort. In order to avoid any ambiguity arising from types of prisons we would prefer to answer gender and age related questions on self-inflicted deaths in the following way and trust that this will suffice.

Self-inflicted deaths by gender and age group

Age range	*Gender*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]
21 and above	Female	9	12	3	3	8	1
	Male	74	77	63	62	77	51
Under 21	Female	5	1	1	0	0	0
	Male	6	5	11	2	7	4
Total		94	95	78	67	92	56

1 As at 11 December 2008

The Ministry of Justice and the Prison Service are committed to reducing the number of such tragic incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk.

Reparation by Offenders

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the fourth report of the evaluation of restorative justice; and if he will make a statement. [242271]

Maria Eagle: Our assessment of the effectiveness of restorative justice for adults following the fourth and final report of the evaluation of the crime reduction programme restorative justice pilots is that restorative justice can deliver high levels of victim satisfaction, and may also help to reduce reoffending. We are therefore considering what further encouragement we can provide to support the continued growth of adult restorative justice, in particular, as a means of improving victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process.

Road Traffic Offences: Convictions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were convicted of offences in England and Wales under sections (i) 14(3), (ii) 15(2) and (iii) 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1998 in 2007; [242750]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 17 to 24, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 31 to 35, (iv) 36 to 40 and (v) over 40 years old were (A) prosecuted and (B) convicted for (1) failing to comply with a road sign, (2) offences under sections (x) 14(3), (y) 15(2) and (z) 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1998, (3) failing to provide a breath specimen for analysis, (4) failing to stop for a police constable and (5) disobeying a police constable stopping traffic in (aa) the Essex Police area, (bb) the Metropolitan Police area and (cc) England and Wales in 2007. [242751]

Maria Eagle: The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various motoring offences, by sex and age group, within the Essex police force area, Metropolitan police force area, and England and Wales in 2007 can be seen in tables 1 to 3 which have been placed in the Library.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many registered airsoft skirmishers there are in the UK; [243422]

(2) how many registered airsoft skirmishing sites there are; and how many there were in December 2007. [243423]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not available centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of crimes involving violence and disorder which are related to irresponsible drinking. [243460]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We do not have an estimate for crimes involving violence and disorder specifically related to irresponsible drinking. However, 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' indicates that 45 per cent. of victims of violent incidents believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol. Supplementary tables of 'Crime in England and Wales 2006-07' show that 18 per cent. of all violence occurred in a pub or club and 48 per cent. of all violent offences were committed between Friday evening and Monday morning.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* inspected and *(b)* approved an overseas primate supply or breeding facility in Cambodia for the export of primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research; and if she will make a statement. [243007]

Meg Hillier: We have previously considered the suitability of a laboratory primate breeding centre in Cambodia, and are reviewing its potential suitability in the light of additional documentation recently received. However, to date we have not received any requests from UK project licence holders to authorise the use of non-human primates acquired from breeding centres in Cambodia. No approval for such requests will be considered until the centre has been visited by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will extend the ban on the importation of wild-caught primates to include primates imported for the purposes of scientific research from countries where there is an indigenous population of that species. [243018]

Meg Hillier: We have no plans to do so. The use under project licence authority of any non-human primate originating from an overseas source requires the express and prior approval of the Secretary of State which is given only if the conditions at the breeding centre are acceptable to the Home Office at that time. The Home Office appraisal of overseas primate breeding centres is an ongoing process taking account of additional relevant information as it becomes available, whether that be from the breeding centre itself, from users or other stakeholders. Part of this appraisal is to ensure, as far as is practical, from the records maintained, that the non-human primates are not wild caught.

Borders: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of establishing a permanent security presence on duty at all times at all ports of entry to the UK. [243514]

Jacqui Smith: No such estimate is available.

British National Party

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on whether allegations of threats of violence have been reported to the police by members of the British National Party since the Party's membership list was posted on the internet; and if she will make a statement. [240528]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The police have produced a strategic threat assessment on risks to members of the British National Party following the publication of the party's membership on the internet. That assessment has been copied to the Home Office and includes a summary of threats of violence that have been reported to the police.

Burglary

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of burglary from a dwelling were recorded in each month of *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 to date. [243262]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Police forces in England and Wales are asked to provide monthly cumulative data for use in the Home Office's quarterly and annual crime statistics publication. However, the validation processes relate to quarterly data rather than monthly and therefore quarterly data for offences of burglary in a dwelling are given in the following table. Quarterly data for July to September 2008 will be published on 22 January 2009.

Offences of burglary in a dwelling recorded by the police in England and Wales

Quarter	*Number of offences*
January to March 2007	73,502
April to June 2007	66,883
July to September 2007	66,937
October to December 2007	72,453
January to March 2008	74,431
April to June 2008	65,295

Driving Under Influence: Thames Valley Police

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for drink-driving offences there were in the Thames Valley police force area in each of the last 20 quarters for which records are available, broken down by basic command unit. [244432]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested are not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences of drink-driving under the Road Traffic Act 1988 are summary offences that do not form a part of the arrests collection. Additionally, data on arrests for the offence of 'causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs' cannot be separated from within the 'violence against the person' offence group.

Data are broken down at police force area level only.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions personal information and DNA samples which *(a)* were planned to be loaded onto and *(b)* had been loaded onto the national DNA database have been lost; and if she will make a statement; [240305]

(2) what procedures are in place to ensure the security of personal information and DNA samples that *(a)* are waiting to be processed into a DNA profile and *(b)* have been loaded onto the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement. [240306]

Mr. Alan Campbell: DNA samples taken by police forces are sent to accredited forensic suppliers for processing, to produce a profile for loading on the National DNA Database (NDNAD). On behalf of the NDNAD Strategy Board, the Custodian sets the technical and procedural standards to which the laboratories must adhere and monitors their performance against these standards. These standards are all contained within the Custodian's quality management system and shared with the laboratories. Security measures on the NDNAD itself are also managed by the Custodian.

Direct access to information on the NDNAD is restricted to a limited number of designated personnel under the control of the Custodian, either directly, or under a contract awarded by the Home Office to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) for operation and maintenance of the NDNAD and development of its IT systems. Throughout the lifetime of the contract, the FSS are required to demonstrate compliance with specified security requirements.

Police and law enforcement personnel do not have access to the information on the NDNAD, but receive reports from the Custodian's staff of matches between DNA taken from crime scenes and that taken from individuals.

There has been one incident affecting DNA profiles which were to be loaded onto the NDNAD. This was the recent occasion when a disc containing profiles taken from crime scenes in the Netherlands was mislaid and subsequently recovered, though it never left the secure premises of the Crown Prosecution Service. The disc did not contain any personal information, as the DNA profiles were left by unknown persons at crime scenes in the Netherlands.

There have been no incidents when data loaded onto the NDNAD has been lost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the increase in the number of profiles on the police DNA database over the last year for which figures exist represents persons who were not found guilty of any offence; and if she will make a statement. [241801]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not contain information about criminal records, as this is not necessary for its function of matching DNA from crime scenes with DNA from individuals. Criminal record information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). The information sought could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on human trafficking: females, what steps are being taken by the *(a)* Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to improve collection of intelligence of human trafficking; and when she expects improved statistics on the extent of human trafficking in the United Kingdom to be published. [241516]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA produces the National Intelligence Requirement (NIR) for Serious Organised Crime, which systematically identifies gaps in knowledge around all key threat areas, including human trafficking. Agencies report against the NIR throughout the year in order to inform the UK Threat Assessment (UKTA) of Serious Organised Crime, which is collated by SOCA on behalf of UK law enforcement and published annually. The resultant improvements in knowledge of human trafficking will be reflected in the UKTA.

This work is supported by the UKHTC through its collaboration with SOCA and through its role as the central repository of all data and intelligence on human trafficking. We already have an estimate of the number of women trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation. We hope to be able to revise this estimate by the end of 2009.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking were identified during police operations in each of the last five years. [241542]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of victims identified during police operations is not collected centrally. The police did collect data on the number of victims recovered during the co-ordinated enforcement campaigns Operation Pentameter 1 and 2 which is shown in the following table.

	Campaign	*Victims recovered*
2006	Pentameter 1	88
2007-08	Pentameter 2	[1]167 [2]5

[1] Victims of sexual exploitation.

[2] Victims of trafficking for domestic servitude/forced labour.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there have been for human trafficking offences under Operation Pentameter 2. [243330]

Jacqui Smith: Of the 528 arrests as a result of Operation Pentameter 299 were for human trafficking. Many of those arrested were charged with offences other than human trafficking, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain and money laundering offences.

It is not possible to disaggregate the conviction figures to provide a breakdown of convictions resulting from Operation Pentameter 2 and many cases arising from that operation are still progressing through the criminal justice system.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's definition is of a person who has been trafficked. [244928]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The UK uses the definition of trafficking set out in the Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime called the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which states that:

> "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the research her Department used to inform its calculation that 80 per cent. of women working in prostitution have been trafficked into the UK. [242701]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has neither made nor cited this calculation.

Human Trafficking: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down the sentences issued to those convicted of human trafficking offences under Operation Pentameter 2 by *(a)* category and *(b)* length of sentence. [243331]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to disaggregate the sentences received as a result of Operation Pentameter 2 from those which may result out of other operations. Additionally many of cases are still progressing through the criminal justice system.

Human Trafficking: Sex Establishments

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the estimated number of UK sex establishments Operation Pentameter 2 visited. [243303]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to accurately state what proportion of UK sex establishments were visited under Pentameter 2.

Operation Pentameter 2 was an intelligence-led operation which involved a total of 822 premises being visited. Of these 157 were massage parlours/saunas, 582 were residential and 83 were other premises including airports, seaports and hotels.

Identity Cards: Nationality

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons identification cards for EEA citizens will not feature reference to the individual's nationality. [241613]

Jacqui Smith: For the majority of British citizens the identity card will also be valid as a travel document within the European Union.

EU citizens who are legally resident in the UK will be issued with an identification card. It will not be valid for travel and the holder's nationality will not be included.

Identity Cards: Overseas Residence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances identity cards will be issued to people resident outside the UK at their time of application. [241655]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* Section 2(2) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 establishes that people aged 16 and over who are resident in the United Kingdom and people of a prescribed description who have either resided here or are proposing to enter the United Kingdom are entitled to be registered on the National Identity Register and to be issued with an identity card.

For the initial issue of identity cards to British citizens and EEA nationals from the second half of 2009, it is intended to allow airside workers who live abroad but still require a permanent airside pass to be eligible for enrolment in line with the rollout of identity cards agreed for relevant airports.

Islam: Marriage

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many mosques in Keighley constituency are registered to conduct civil marriage ceremonies; [242867]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of weddings which took place in unregistered mosques in Keighley constituency which were not subsequently followed up by a civil ceremony in the last 12 months; and how many such weddings took place which were followed by a civil ceremony. [242868]

Meg Hillier: The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of religious worship, except those of the Established Church, to be certified to the Registrar General. A building has to be certified as a place of religious worship before it can be registered for marriages by the Registrar General under the Marriage Act 1949.

The Marriage Act draws a distinction between civil and religious marriages. Where a marriage is conducted in a registered building it may be solemnised according to such form and ceremony as the persons contracting the marriage see fit to adopt. Civil marriages may only take place in a register office or other building approved for that purpose by the local authority in which it is situated.

The register of buildings registered for the solemnisation of marriage is not held in a format that can be readily broken down into individual parliamentary constituency. The closest geographical area for registration purposes which includes Keighley is the registration district of Bradford and Keighley. There are 13 buildings that are registered for the solemnisation of marriage by those professing the Muslim religion in this registration district.

Information on the numbers of marriages in England and Wales is published in the annual reference volume Series FM2 Marriage, Divorce and Adoption Statistics, available from the House of Commons Library. However, figures for the number of marriages by building are not readily available. There are no records held of any ceremonies that are conducted by those professing the Muslim religion that are outside of the provisions in the Marriage Act 1949.

Police

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanism evidence is gathered from police forces on the impact of migration on each force. [241856]

Jacqui Smith: The Migration Impacts Forum provides a means of proper, regular and organised dialogue with interested parties outside Government, focused on the wider impacts associated with migration experienced by local areas. Its role is to consider information from forum members, including the police, about the social implications of migration and any transitional impacts.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Independent Police Complaints Commission has the power to investigate complaints about allegedly unlawful conduct by serving police officers. [243691]

Mr. Coaker: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has statutory powers under the Police Reform Act 2002 to deal with complaints and allegations of misconduct against the police in England and Wales.

Police: East Midlands Airport

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to Leicestershire Police Authority of policing East Midlands Airport was in the last year for which figures were available. [244195]

Mr. Coaker: The costs of policing East Midlands airport are a matter for the chief constable of Leicestershire constabulary and the local police authority.

The figures are not held centrally.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was spent by Essex police force defending actions brought against them by victims of crime in each year since 2001; [244942]

(2) how much was spent by Essex police force defending itself against vexatious litigation in each year since 2001; [244943]

(3) which *(a)* barristers' chambers and *(b)* solicitors' firms have undertaken work for Essex police force in each of the last two financial years; and what the reason for the work and the fees paid were in each case; [244944]

(4) which 10 barristers instructed by Essex Police received the highest sums for this work in the last two financial years; how much each received; and if she will make a statement. [244945]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. Decisions on the distribution of resources are a matter for the chief constable of Essex and Essex police authority.

Police: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of the level of readiness of police forces to respond to incidents of flooding. [242711]

Mr. Coaker: Under the auspices of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Local Resilience Forum structure has, since its implementation in 2005, been the primary means through which police forces and other category 1 organisations collaborate to develop emergency plans which would include flood preparedness. Although police forces are engaged in the preparation of their own flood response arrangements, the majority of preparedness is achieved collectively through multi-agency planning.

All Local Resilience Forums have carried out assessments of the risks of emergencies in their areas, and I understand that most recognise flooding as a high risk. Most Local Resilience Forums have a collectively agreed multi-agency flood response plan; and nearly all of the main category 1 responders within them, including police forces, either contribute to these plans or take account of flooding incidents in their own emergency response plans. Most of the plans that exist had already been reviewed in the period following the summer 2007 flooding; and multi-agency plans are being further reviewed following the issue of new guidance from Government in February this year.

In his independent review of the 2007 floods, Sir Michael Pitt said

> "during the emergency itself, there were excellent examples of emergency services and other organisations working well together: saving lives and protecting property. However, this was not always the case; some decision making was hampered by insufficient preparation and a lack of information".

The Government will be responding to Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations by the end of this year.

Police: Recruitment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of recruiting a police officer was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [243365]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Resignations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruits left the police force within two years of joining since 1997, broken down by police force area; and what percentage of leavers that figure represented in each year. [241803]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The numbers of officers voluntarily resigning or dismissed from each force with less than two years service are given in the following tables.

Number of police officers (FTE)[1,2] dismissed or resigned within the first two years of service

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	39	32	30	15	8	18
Bedfordshire	17	21	30	16	11	15
Cambridgeshire	18	10	12	10	12	5
Cheshire	6	10	16	7	16	6
Cleveland	2	9	13	7	15	12
Cumbria	5	3	8	5	7	7
Derbyshire	7	13	5	4	9	17
Devon and Cornwall	20	10	18	23	20	7
Dorset	13	14	13	15	13	8
Durham	6	8	13	12	8	1
Dyfed-Powys	5	5	10	4	3	4
Essex	19	15	34	38	41	27
Gloucestershire	13	9	11	4	3	3
Greater Manchester	54	64	54	42	20	22
Gwent	2	3	4	10	8	5
Hampshire	26	45	36	32	22	16
Hertfordshire	30	40	37	29	28	24
Humberside	17	18	11	17	15	23
Kent	38	44	27	20	14	12
Lancashire	n/a	18	20	12	14	7
Leicestershire	8	16	n/a	19	6	10
Lincolnshire	10	7	11	11	3	4
London, City of	11	5	6	3	2	2
Merseyside	9	14	19	18	33	13
Metropolitan Police	302	383	207	95	76	44
Norfolk	12	6	7	11	12	5
Northamptonshire	8	6	5	10	10	14
Northumbria	20	20	19	13	13	8
North Wales	8	7	10	5	5	5
North Yorkshire	8	7	13	2	12	14
Nottinghamshire	8	8	11	3	6	4
South Wales	24	7	11	13	9	11
South Yorkshire	22	20	29	20	20	13
Staffordshire	12	12	28	12	12	7
Suffolk	11	19	13	10	3	5
Surrey	24	29	19	17	22	22
Sussex	44	86	81	48	37	25
Thames Valley	40	32	61	40	28	22
Warwickshire	12	7	3	5	6	13
West Mercia	11	21	9	9	8	13
West Midlands	84	7	68	54	44	45
West Yorkshire	29	31	37	61	33	30
Wiltshire	10	11	11	12	3	6

n/a = data not available
[1] Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. Provisional data that have not been verified by individual forces, based on published data taken from annual Police Service Strength bulletins.
[2] Data collected from 2002-03 onwards.

Police officers (FTE)[1,2] dismissed or resigned within the first two years of service as a percentage of all police officers dismissed or resigned

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
						Percentage
Avon and Somerset	62	55	56	29	21	35
Bedfordshire	53	54	77	62	37	44
Cambridgeshire	52	42	32	38	40	28
Cheshire	46	42	76	16	48	30
Cleveland	29	38	42	24	60	46
Cumbria	42	23	53	38	37	37
Derbyshire	29	48	25	17	20	36
Devon and Cornwall	54	37	47	56	48	17
Dorset	62	70	57	60	54	30
Durham	50	47	65	67	50	5
Dyfed-Powys	38	71	45	29	43	29
Essex	41	36	54	58	22	38
Gloucestershire	59	47	60	19	13	16
Greater Manchester	47	47	46	20	12	15
Gwent	17	21	21	43	47	17
Hampshire	53	60	54	50	39	29
Hertfordshire	58	67	64	48	42	43
Humberside	49	58	32	49	43	53
Kent	70	60	44	29	26	19
Lancashire		43	51	41	35	16
Leicestershire	30	44		41	20	16
Lincolnshire	67	41	65	55	17	25
London, City of	55	42	43	30	17	11
Merseyside	28	33	30	19	46	24
Metropolitan Police	62	65	44	25	18	11
Norfolk	67	[illegible]	47	44	52	29
Northamptonshire	67	21	17	40	45	30
Northumbria	50	33	45	35	24	15
North Wales	42	16	56	22	22	29
North Yorkshire	62	33	50	11	38	40
Nottinghamshire	17	30	38	20	21	17
South Wales	62	28	52	41	21	13
South Yorkshire	46	42	54	45	47	28
Staffordshire	36	56	60	60	39	21
Suffolk	55	63	45	56	20	22
Surrey	67	66	56	40	38	39
Sussex	56	65	69	53	43	31
Thames Valley	67	43	60	28	30	26
Warwickshire	63	33	17	36	35	59
West Mercia	50	54	38	28	20	35
West Midlands	60	4	40	37	32	37

Police officers (FTE)[1, 2] dismissed or resigned within the first two years of service as a percentage of all police officers dismissed or resigned

Percentage

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
West Yorkshire	51	41	49	62	47	31
Wiltshire	27	58	33	38	14	19

n/a = data not available

[1] Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. Provisional data that have not been verified by individual forces, based on published data taken from annual Police Service Strength bulletins.

[2] Data collected from 2002-03 onwards.

Police: Training

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the average cost of *(a)* employing, *(b)* training and *(c)* developing a probationary police constable in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [243277]

(2) what the average cost of employing a police officer in each police authority area was in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the equivalent figure was in each of the last five years; and what the figures are expected to be in each of the next five years. [243519]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to collect information on the *(a)* number of and *(b)* circumstances in which speed cameras are damaged; and if she will make a statement. [243085]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Deliberately causing damage to a speed camera is not a specific offence, but an example of criminal damage. It would be impractical to require the collection and submission to central Government of detailed information on every type of criminal damage and every instance of its occurrence.

Speed cameras are a road safety tool of proven effectiveness. Those who damage them are wilfully putting people's lives at increased risk. Individual chief officers of police will collect information as they consider appropriate and necessary to deal effectively with any problems that occur in their areas.

Thames Valley Police

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each basic command unit in the Thames Valley police force area cost in each of the last 10 years; and what the performance indicators for each basic command unit are. [244430]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. Details of the performance indicators used by individual basic command units are matters for Thames Valley police.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Textiles: Manpower

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people are employed in the *(a)* weaving, *(b)* spinning, *(c)* dyeing, *(d)* finishing and making-up and *(e)* silk industry sectors of the clothing and textiles industry. [242414]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many people were employed in the (a) weaving, (b) spinning, (c) dyeing, (d) finishing and making-up and (e) silk industry sectors of the clothing and textiles industry. (242414)

Table 1 attached, shows the number of employee jobs in the weaving, spinning, finishing and making-up, and silk industries in Great Britain in 2006.

Estimates of employment are usually provided using the Labour Force Survey. However because of the interest in industrial sector, your question has been answered using the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), which provides estimates at the 4-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC03) level.

The ABI is a business survey which provides estimates of employment according to the number of jobs. The estimates exclude people who are self-employed workers in the industry sectors requested. Please note that dyeing employment estimates cannot be provided separately using 4-digit SIC03, and estimates for the silk industry are also included under weaving and spinning.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Business Inquiry are subject to margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of employee jobs in selected clothing and textile industries[1], 2006 Great Britain

	Thousand
Weaving[2]	7
Spinning[3]	5
Finishing and Making-up[4]	66
Silk[5]	3

[1] Using four-digit Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC03)

[2] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1721-1725 (which includes weaving of silk)

[3] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1711-1717 (which includes spinning of silk)

[4] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1740-1830

[5] The four digit SIC03 codes used are 1715 and 1724

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

West Bank

5. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's priorities are for assisting Palestinians in the West Bank. [244009]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the west bank, as in Gaza, my Department aims to help create the conditions for sustainable peace and to improve the lives of Palestinians.

Our priorities are to help the Palestinian Authority to deliver essential services, support efforts to reduce restrictions on movement and access, work with the US and others to improve security, support development of the Palestinian private sector, and provide Palestinian refugees the assistance they need.

Zimbabwe

7. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance the Government is providing to the people of Zimbabwe. [244991]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to get worse. Thousands have been hit by cholera and hundreds have died. Basic services have collapsed. The health services can only respond because of the help we and others are giving. Five million people need food aid, and more disease outbreaks could be on the way.

Mugabe has led his country to this humanitarian catastrophe and now denies it exists. We are doing everything we can to save lives, but fundamental change is now required to give power back to the Zimbabwean people and bring this crisis to an end.

11. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contingency plans he has to provide emergency relief for Zimbabwe. [244995]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Zimbabwe is facing a growing humanitarian crisis now compounded by a cholera epidemic. The Department for International Development will spend £47 million this year in humanitarian assistance to save the lives and livelihoods of the poorest, most vulnerable Zimbabweans. This assistance will provide immediate assistance for the cholera response, seeds and fertiliser, food aid, medicines, HIV/AIDS treatment and maternal and newborn services. UK support goes to UN agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Tuberculosis

8. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking globally to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. [244992]

Mr. Thomas: DFID aims to prevent the spread of TB through our support to international organisations and partnerships, direct support to countries, and research. DFID supports the World Health Organisation, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID, the drug purchase facility. DFID works on TB programmes in a number of countries, in addition to strengthening health systems which combats all diseases including TB. We also fund research including development of new drugs.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

9. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to deal with the humanitarian situation in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo. [244993]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I recently made available an additional £5 million for the crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), bringing the total UK spend for humanitarian needs in DRC in 2008 to £42 million.

DFID is one of the largest humanitarian donors in the DRC and has been at the forefront of the humanitarian effort to date. The bulk of UK funds (£30 million) are provided to the UN-managed Pooled Fund, with the remainder going to NGOs and the Red Cross. UK funds are providing much needed shelter, health, water and sanitation, food and nutrition to over four million Congolese throughout DRC.

12. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Democratic Republic of Congo. [244996]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is dire. Currently, the main needs assessed by my Department are security, health, food, water, sanitation and shelter for the over 1 million displaced and the communities affected by the conflict.

The humanitarian community has responded well to the crisis and there are no significant humanitarian gaps at present. The UK is one of the largest humanitarian donors to the DRC with £42 million in 2008 and UK funds have been in action since day one of the crisis. UK funds are helping to reach over 4 million Congolese each year across DRC.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

10. **Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government plans to provide to deal with the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [244994]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate. The cholera epidemic is the biggest in Zimbabwe's history and has led to thousands of cases so far and hundreds of deaths. The UN is predicting that as many as 60,000 could be affected in the coming weeks. DFID is funding a £10 million package to help fight the cholera outbreak and support life-saving health services.

Palestine

13. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government aid to Palestinians. [244997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All UK development aid is carefully monitored for effectiveness. The World Bank confirms that our support to the Palestinian Authority has helped it deliver essential services to the Palestinian people. Our funding to the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency supports health, education and other services for over 4 million Palestinian refugees, including in Gaza, where aid agencies operate within severe Israeli controls. Palestinians and the Israeli authorities are increasingly confident in the Palestinian security forces.

which we are helping to reform. Our support to private sector development has helped to secure $725 million worth of investment deals for Palestinian businesses.

14. **Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government aid to Palestinians; and if he will make a statement. [244098]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All UK development aid is carefully monitored for effectiveness. The World Bank confirms that our support to the Palestinian Authority has helped it deliver essential services to the Palestinian people. Our funding to the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency supports health, education and other services for over 4 million Palestinian refugees, including in Gaza, where aid agencies operate within severe Israeli controls. Palestinians and the Israeli authorities are increasingly confident in the Palestinian security forces, which we are helping to reform. Our support to private sector development has helped to secure $725 million worth of investment deals for Palestinian businesses.

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator on a new humanitarian action plan for Afghanistan. [242721]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On October 2, 2008, I wrote to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator regarding a new Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan. I was encouraged by the recent visit of UN OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) officials to assist with the development and strengthening of the Humanitarian Action Plan.

OCHA will be sharing their findings with the Department for International Development (DFID)in the New Year.

Chagos Islands: Overseas Aid

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will consider providing increased assistance to the former Chagos Islanders. [244085]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has no programme for assistance to Chagossians. There is no permanent resident population in the British Indian Ocean Territory. Following the House of Lords judgment on 22 October, the Government's policy will remain that no one has the right of abode in the Territory or the right to enter unless authorised. While in no way justifying the regrettable decisions that were made in the 1960s and the 1970s, earlier court rulings found that the compensation already paid in full and final settlement of claims was fair.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242915]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain records of the number of civil servants investigated for losing or deliberately disclosing data or confidential information who were neither dismissed nor suspended. No DFID civil servants have been dismissed or suspended for being responsible for losing or deliberately disclosing data or confidential information in this period.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241246]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is not possible to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money. This document is available on HM Treasury's web-site:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_mpm_index.htm

Languages

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what external language training providers his Department has used in the last 12 months. [242719]

Mr. Michael Foster: Requirements for language training are assessed by each office based upon business priorities and securing value for money in the local market. The Department for International Development (DFID) consists of approximately 100 sub-departments and overseas offices with devolved authority for financing and arranging such training. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to provide details of all the language providers used in the last 12 months. However, from the data we do hold centrally, we can report that for 2007-08 the two major providers used to provide language training are Communicaid Global Communications and Linguerama.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff are undergoing of language training, broken down by the language in which training is being provided. [242720]

Mr. Michael Foster: Reporting how many Department for International Development (DFID) staff are in receipt of language training, broken down by the language in which training is being provided cannot be achieved without incurring disproportionate cost.

Requirements for language training are assessed by each office based upon business priorities and securing value for money in the local market.

DFID consists of approximately 100 sub-departments and overseas offices with devolved authority for financing and arranging training. There are limited centrally held records.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures he has put in place for the provision of humanitarian aid to the population of North Korea; what discussions he has had with the North Korean government on the implementation of that strategy; and what representations he has made to the United Nations on this matter. [242803]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have not put any measures in place to provide humanitarian aid to North Korea. We continue to monitor the situation and are aware of the joint FAO and World Food programme report issued on 8 December.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has plans to improve *(a)* transport links between the United Kingdom and the Pitcairn Islands and *(b)* facilities for (i) tourism and (ii) healthcare on the Islands; and whether his Department plans to promote investment by businesses on the Islands. [242826]

Mr. Michael Foster: Plans are well advanced to introduce a new passenger and freight shipping service for Pitcairn in 2009. This would make access to the island more frequent and predictable. Tourism development is important for Pitcairn's future prosperity. We are considering plans to improve landing facilities, particularly for cruise ship passengers, and will work with the community to help develop more professional tourist services and standards.

We fund through the Pitcairn Government a small loan scheme which some Pitcairners have used to start up tourist and other small businesses. External business interest is more limited but we have encouraged fishing, tourist and trading opportunities where they exist. The DFID funded Adamstown Healthcentre, and expatriate doctor, offer good health services to the community.

Somalia: Asylum

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to provide targeted assistance in support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' work with Somali refugees in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [242806]

Mr. Michael Foster: In November 2006 the UK, through the Department for International Development (DFID) made a grant of US$ 2.29 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for their work with Somali refugees in Kenya. We have no plans at present to provide further direct assistance.

However, DFID is providing core funding of £19 million to UNHCR for its global operations in 2008. In addition, during 2008 UNHCR has received $3.75 million from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to which the UK is the largest contributor.

The 2009 UN Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal for Kenya includes a request for $54 million (£36 million) for UNHCR. DFID is exploring whether to make a contribution to this appeal. It is a matter for the UN as to whether Somali refugees in Kenya will be a priority for this funding.

St Helena

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the issues of concern regarding access to St Helena on which his Department is in discussions with the Treasury are; when negotiations are expected to resume; and if he will make a statement. [242390]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We announced on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 40WS, that there will be a pause in negotiations over the St. Helena Airport contract. We anticipate that this pause will continue into the new year. This is to allow ongoing discussions, including on value for money of St. Helena access options; particularly in light of the changed economic climate.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to the Nuba region of Sudan in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [242722]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 October 2008 to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew), *Official Report*, column 1419W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will represent the United Kingdom at the meeting called by the French Foreign Minister in Paris on 14 December 2008 to discuss Afghanistan. [243258]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, represented the UK at an informal ministerial meeting on Afghanistan and the region, hosted by the French Foreign Minister in Paris on 14 December 2008.

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Burma has had with the UN Secretary General on his forthcoming trip to Burma; and when his visit is scheduled. [243160]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary regularly discuss the situation in Burma with the UN Secretary General. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the issue with Ban Ki Moon as recently as 9 December.

The UN Secretary-General announced earlier this month that he would not now be travelling to Burma later this month, because he did not believe the conditions were right. He expressed his frustration at the lack of progress made; called on the regime to respond to the concerns of the international community; and urged all countries with influence to encourage the regime to co-operate with the UN. We share his concerns and echo his call for the international community, and particularly Burma's neighbours, to do more to support his efforts. Should the Secretary-General choose to visit next year he will, of course, have our full support. We continue to believe that the UN Good Offices Mission, and Ban Ki Moon's personal engagement, can have a positive impact on Burma's transition to democracy.

Forced Marriage

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time permanent members of staff work for his Department's Forced Marriage Unit. [241220]

Gillian Merron: Seven full-time staff work in the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office Forced Marriage Unit.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the operational budget of the Forced Marriage Unit is for 2008-09. [241221]

Gillian Merron: In addition to staffing costs, the Forced Marriage Unit has a budget of £273,000 for 2008-09. This budget is used to support work with non-governmental organisations in the UK and overseas, to fund outreach activities, to produce awareness raising materials, and other publications, such as the recent statutory guidance for agencies dealing with forced marriage.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of suspected forced marriage were reported to the Forced Marriage Unit in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007. [241222]

Gillian Merron: In the first three quarters of 2008 the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support in a total of 1,308 incidences of suspected forced marriage. This included advice to individuals, non-governmental organisations and other agencies on specific cases. Of these 388 required direct support from the Unit, 192 needing consular assistance, and 196 requiring support as reluctant visa sponsors. Prior to 2007 figures were only recorded for cases where assistance was provided. In 2007 the Unit handled 168 cases requiring consular assistance, and 94 reluctant sponsor cases.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training is provided to embassy staff who negotiate with suspected victims of forced marriage and their families. [241223]

Gillian Merron: All consular staff overseas receive training which includes handling of forced marriage cases. Consular staff being deployed to countries where we commonly see forced marriage cases receive additional briefing and information from the Forced Marriage Unit.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal guidance his Department provides for staff in agencies working outside the UK who deal with suspected cases of forced marriage. [241224]

Gillian Merron: Consular staff overseas can draw on legal guidance from honorary legal advisers in country and from the Foreign and Commonwealth legal advisers in London. Advice can be general or case specific.

Montserrat: Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had on the preservation of the diversity of wildlife in *(a)* Montserrat and *(b)* Bermuda. [240965]

Gillian Merron: Officials have regular discussions with relevant environmental departments and organisations in Montserrat and Bermuda on the preservation of the diversity of wildlife in both territories and on how the UK can help both territories with environmental conservation.

In 2001, the Government signed environment charters with the overseas territories, including with Montserrat and Bermuda. The charters consist of a list of commitments for the Government and individual overseas territory governments to take forward to protect and safeguard the environment of each territory.

The Government provides funding through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme to assist territory governments with the implementation of the charters. Assistance is also available through the Darwin Initiative, a Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs fund, to support projects to assist territories to protect their biodiversity.

In Montserrat this year, the Governor and his staff have had discussions with the Ministry of Environment about the work they are doing on the preservation of wildlife, flora and fauna. The Governor's Office also liaises closely with UK environmental organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) about the work they are doing with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture on environmental conservation in Montserrat, and to offer assistance in moving their work forward.

During 2008, the Governor in Bermuda has worked with the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audobon Society, a local charity for the protection of birdlife and habitats, to promote awareness of, and to help protect, Bermuda's diversity of wildlife. The Governor's Office has also hosted fundraising events to fund the purchase of a new reserve for the conservation of Bermuda's biodiversity.

Nigeria: Violence

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the security situation in the Nigerian city of Jos following the clashes between Muslims and Christians between 29 and 30 November 2008; and what discussions he has had with the Government of Nigeria on this matter. [242808]

Gillian Merron: Following the rioting on 28-30 November 2008, the situation in Jos, Plateau State, remains tense. The Government of Nigeria has taken various measures, including a temporary curfew, to avoid further violence. The Nigerian Inter-Religious Council has held a meeting in Jos under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Sokoto and Catholic Archbishop John Onaiyekan to help prevent future outbreaks. The Government has had discussions with the Nigerian authorities, both at local and at ministerial level, and will continue to monitor the situation carefully. We will continue to review and update our travel advice to reflect the situation on the ground.

Oil: Research

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1056-7W, on oil: armed conflict, how much his Department's strategic programme has budgeted for support for the project by the University of Plymouth. [242707]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated £314,000 as strategic programme funding for the University of Plymouth crude oil finger-printing project. This breaks down to £85,000 for financial year 2006-07, £100,000 for financial year 2007-08, £114,000 for financial year 2008-09 and £15,000 for financial year 2009-10.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1056-7W, on oil: armed conflict, which international oil companies have contributed technical expertise to the University of Plymouth project. [242708]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not aware that the international oil companies have directly contributed technical expertise to the University of Plymouth research as yet. The international oil companies have been invited to contribute to this project and the FCO is lobbying for them to do so.

Russia: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK diplomatic staff there were in Russia and *(b)* Russian diplomatic staff there were in the UK (i) immediately prior to the expulsion of diplomats in 2007 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [240784]

Caroline Flint: Immediately prior to the expulsion of diplomats in July 2007, the UK had 78 diplomatic staff in Russia, including temporary staff, while Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) records showed that 77 Russians were notified to the FCO as being posted to the UK with diplomatic rank. At present, the UK has 78 diplomatic staff posted to Russia, while current FCO records show that 72 Russian diplomatic staff are registered in the UK. These figures are subject to routine fluctuation depending on arrivals and departures in posts.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment of *(a)* UK-Russian relations and *(b)* EU-Russian relations the Government has carried out since the war in Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [242198]

David Miliband: Russia is important to achieving UK and EU objectives in many areas, including regional security, energy and climate change. The UK has serious concerns over Russian policy and actions in Georgia, and is supporting multilateral efforts, including through the EU, to broker solutions.

Differences remain unresolved in bilateral relations, including over the Litvinenko case and the British Council's work in Russia, on which we continue to pursue satisfactory outcomes. The Government engage with Russia in pursuit of UK interests, including through high level dialogue. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met Medvedev in the margins of the G20 summit in Washington to discuss the international financial crisis. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Foreign Minister Lavrov most recently on 4 December in the margins of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Ministerial in Helsinki.

Although the strong trade and investment relationship between Russian and the UK has been hit by the financial crisis, both the Lord Mayor of London and my noble Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Lord Mandelson have led business delegations to Russian this autumn to promote the interests of British businesses and encourage co-operation between governments on trade and investment. The Government have supported both the From Russia exhibition in London and the Turner exhibition in Moscow.

Our engagement with Russia allows us to express serious concerns about Russian policies as well as to work together with Russia where it is clearly in our interest to do so. The UK believes it is right to pursue a comprehensive and binding successor to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement which will help the UK and EU partners to build a more stable, long-term relationship with Russia based on the rule of law. However, in order to achieve this, Russia must meet its commitments under the 12 August and 8 September ceasefire agreements in full and work constructively in the Geneva peace talks. The extent to which Russia meets these commitments will determine the pace of development of the EU-Russia relationship, which the EU will keep under close review in light of the EU-Russia Audit.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the African Union force for Somalia to be fully deployed; and if he will make a statement. [243158]

Gillian Merron: The original mandate for the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISON) envisaged 8,000 troops. Currently around 3,500 are deployed within Somalia.

St Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many inhabitants of St Helena have taken up residence in the United Kingdom in the last five years. [240849][1]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any meetings with officials from St. Helena in the last two years. However, I had a constructive meeting with Councillor William Drabble during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in October this year, and my hon. Friend, Meg Munn, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, met with Councillor Brian Isaacs at the same event in December 2007. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government officials are in regular contact with St. Helena officials.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit *(a)* St Helena, *(b)* Tristan da Cunha and *(c)* Ascension Islands in the next 12 months. [240878]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha or Ascension Island in the next 12 months.

My hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Meg Munn) visited Ascension Island in January this year when she met with representatives of the employing organisations and private sector and former councillors.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan consequent upon the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court on 20 November 2008 for the three rebel leaders alleged to be responsible for attacks on international peacekeepers in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [242809]

Gillian Merron: On 20 November 2008, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor submitted an application for arrest warrants for three Darfur rebels alleged to have been involved in attacks on African Union soldiers. These applications are now being considered by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC. The ICC is independent and it would be premature to speculate on outcome of its internal deliberations.

We continue to call on all parties to the conflict to co-operate with the International Criminal Court. There can be no impunity for crimes committed in Darfur.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Government of Sudan to provide clearance for UN-AM Mission in Darfur airlift operations following its agreement on 26 September 2008; and what discussions the Special Envoy to Sudan has had with the government of Sudan on this matter. [242833]

Gillian Merron: As part of a tripartite agreement reached on 7 October with the UN and the African Union, the Government of Sudan undertook to provide clearance for airlift operations for the UN/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). This clearance has subsequently been granted. We expect airlift of cargo into Darfur to begin shortly.

We have underlined the importance of implementation of the tripartite agreement with the Government of Sudan, including through the UK Special Representative for Sudan, as well as in the UN Security Council, and will continue to monitor progress.

Syria: Terrorism

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to make representations to the Syrian government in respect of honours they have bestowed on convicted Islamist terrorist Sumar Kuntar; and if he will make a statement. [242525]

Bill Rammell: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Bill Rammell to Stewart Jackson:

We are concerned that Syria has chosen to award its Order of Merit to someone guilty of such acts. We have no plans to make representations directly, but during my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Syria, he discussed with President Asad the strategic choice that Syria faces in acting as a force for stability or instability in the region.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on UK participation at the Durban Review Conference; and if he will make a statement. [241167]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 26 November, *Official Report*, column 1794W, in which I expressed concern at the direction taken by preparations for the Durban Review Conference.

A further round of negotiations will take place in January 2009, after which the Government will assess their position.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of members and supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change in Zimbabwe who have disappeared since September 2008; and what reports his Department has received on the likely whereabouts of those who have disappeared. [242807]

Gillian Merron: We have received reports that approximately 18 supporters of the MDC, including a two-year-old child, have been abducted in recent weeks and are still missing. In addition, Jestina Mukoko of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and two ZPP colleagues were abducted on 3 and 8 December and have not been found. The Government have failed to produce these missing people, despite Court Orders, and despite the efforts of their colleagues, lawyers, non-governmental organisations and the international community to locate them and secure their safe release or fair trial. We are seriously concerned for the safety of all those who have disappeared and condemn their extra-judicial abduction and detention. We continue to call, bilaterally, as well as in the UN Human Rights and Security Councils and with EU member states, for an end to all such human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 7MC.]*

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the documents establishing the Department for Energy and Climate Change. [242078]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Cabinet Office paper explaining the machinery of government changes in which the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created, entitled "Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment", was placed in the Libraries of both Houses on 13 October.

Energy: Imports

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost per tonne equivalent was of electricity imported via the interconnector with France in 2007. [244121]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold information on the value of interconnector flows with France. The amount and value of interconnector flows to the GB market are determined by the commercial decisions made by market participants and grid operator to equilibrate the underlying demand and supply in the electricity market. The value of such supplies are therefore commercially confidential.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost per tonne equivalent of imported *(a)* oil, *(b)* gas, *(c)* liquid gas and *(d)* shale oil and tar sands was in 2007. [244122]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average cost of imported oil and gas in 2007 was as follows:

Crude Oil: 271 £/tonne

Natural Gas: 130,000 £/tonne (converted using an average density of 0.756 kg/cubic metre).

DECC does not hold any data on the cost of imported liquid gas (LNG), shale oil or tar sands.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to prioritise help for pre-payment customers for the installation of smart meters; and what discussions he has had with energy providers on this matter. [242802]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have confirmed that they will mandate the provision of smart meters to all domestic customers, and have given an indicative timetable for a roll-out. They will announce their decisions on how and when smart meters will be rolled out in the new year, and the approach to prepayment meters will be one of the matters we will consider in taking those decisions.

Energy: Per Capita Costs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1465W, on electricity: per capita costs, what method for calculating the annual cost of the Renewables Obligation per customer was used. [242618]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem base the calculation on an assumption about the amount of electricity used per annum by a household multiplied by the buyout price for the renewables obligation for that year multiplied by the percentage obligation for that year. This calculation gives the upper limit to the cost of the renewables obligation for that year.

Geological Disposal Implementation Board

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on what date the Geological Disposal Implementation Board was set up; [242488]

(2) what the budget for the Geological Disposal Implementation Board is in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [242489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Geological Disposal Implementation Board (GDIB) is a civil servant programme board set up in October 2008 to manage the Government and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) arrangements for planning and delivery of a geological disposal facility as set out in the White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safety: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal'. The board is a means by which civil servants from the relevant Government Departments can discuss the programme and prepare and present advice to Ministers. As such, the board does not have its own budget.

Organisations represented on GDIB are the Department of Energy and Climate Change, HM Treasury, the Welsh Assembly Government and the NDA as the Government's delivery body.

Other Government Departments, regulatory bodies and other organisations can be invited to contribute to supporting work.

Harworth Colliery

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the feasibility of re-opening Harworth Colliery. [242483]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for UK Coal plc, the mine operator.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 October 2008 on smaller scale renewable schemes in the Energy Bill. [242436]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: There is no record of the hon. Member's letter being received by this Department, officials have requested a copy of the letter and I will reply in due course.

Natural Gas: Rural Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of barriers to gas provision in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [242072]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost to the customer is clearly the principal barrier to providing new connections to communities and households beyond the mains gas network, including rural areas. Because of the benefits that access to gas offers deprived and other households, the Government developed a model to provide connections to deprived communities by packaging a range of existing funding sources and using independent gas transporters. The successful application of that model was instrumental in persuading the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) to incentivise the large gas networks, such as Wales and the West, to connect deprived communities under the 2008-13 Gas Distribution Price Control.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the resource budget costs of nuclear decommissioning provisions by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [242145]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The funding requirements of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) were considered within the context of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The settlement provides the NDA with £5.1 billion Government funding over the three years (ie £1.8 billion in 2008-09, £1.6 billion in 2009-10 and £1.7 billion in 2010-11) of which £1.4 billion is resource and £3.7 billion is capital. Together with the income that the NDA will earn from commercial activities in the period, it is estimated that the total funding available over the three years will be over £8 billion.

Renewable Energy: EC Action

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* policy implications of meeting the likely UK share of the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020. [240309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our assessment of the cost and policy implications of meeting the UK share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target was set out in our consultation document, which was published in June 2008, and can be accessed at

www.berr.gov.uk/renewableconsultation.

We are updating this analysis as part of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy, which we will publish in spring 2009.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what modelling his Department has conducted on how the UK can meet its share of the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020; and if he will publish the results. [240314]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The analysis undertaken to support the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document was published with the consultation document in June 2008, and can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/renewableconsultation.

We are updating this analysis as part of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy, which we will publish in spring 2009.

Renewables Obligation Order 2009

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates *(a)* the draft Renewables Obligation Order 2009 and *(b)* the Government's Response to the consultation on the Order were published. [244229]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The draft Renewables Obligation Order 2009 and the Government's Response to the consultation on the order were published on 2 December 2008 and can be found at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/renewables/policy/renewables-obligation/key-stages/ro-consultation-2009/page46709.html

Wind Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the future of the Cirrus Array offshore wind farm following the withdrawal of Royal Dutch Shell from the consortium funding the development. [244448]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Cirrus Energy (a consortium comprising Scottish Power, Eurus Energy, Shell Wind Energy and DONG) withdrew their application to this Department for Section 36 consent for the proposed 270MW offshore wind farm 'Cirrus Shell Flat Array' on 31 October 2008.

This decision is a matter for the companies concerned, but reflects the particular circumstances of the project's location and does not reflect the attractiveness of the UK's offshore wind market as a whole nor the viability of other projects.

The UK is currently leading the world in the delivery of offshore wind. This is because we are creating the right business environment for investment, stimulating investment in technology development and deployment, working to improve access to the grid and speeding up the planning process. With more than 90 UK and international companies registering their interest for new offshore wind development rights with the Crown Estate under the Round 3 competition, the expansion of offshore wind in UK waters remains very much on course.

Wind Power: Environmental Impact Assessment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what environmental impact assessment regarding wildlife is required for wind turbines, with particular reference to bats. [242049]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: For projects over 50 MW, which are considered under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 or under the Transport and Works Act 1992, wind farm developers are required when seeking development consent to consider all environmental aspects of wind energy projects and produce an environmental impact assessment (EIA) which is available to the public. This includes the possible effects on flora and fauna, including bats. For projects of 50 MW or less, which are considered under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the local planning authority may request an ELA is completed.

In addition, DECC have commissioned numerous research projects in order to assess possible environmental impacts from wind turbines. In particular, DECC are funding research into the development of techniques that may reduce the risk of bats interacting with wind turbines. The results of this research should be published next year.

PRIME MINISTER

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what correspondence he has had with members of the public on the noise thresholds that should apply to air source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines under the permitted development system; [244502]

(2) with reference to his letter to a member of the public of 27 August 2008, on the inclusion of air source heat pumps and micro-wind turbines in the permitted development scheme, for what reasons the relevant delegated legislation has not been laid before Parliament. [244503]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister has received two recent letters from members of the public on the noise thresholds under permitted development for householder air-source heat pumps and micro wind turbines. The Government are committed to permitting the installation of small wind turbines and air source heat pumps without the need for a planning application. However it is important we set the right criteria for noise levels for wind turbines and pumps on homes under permitted development and resolve the issue of possible interference with aviation communication systems. The Minister for Housing and Planning will make a statement to Parliament in the new year.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government policies to encourage safe and sensible social drinking. [240371]

Dawn Primarolo: A cross-Government ministerial group monitors and manages the delivery and effectiveness of the Government's alcohol strategy. Information on progress against the actions in 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy' (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) as well as statistical data assessing reductions in alcohol harm or changes in public awareness are published on Government websites.

Latest data show the following information on progress against the actions in 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy' as well as statistical data on alcohol harms or changes in public awareness:

alcohol related violent crime fell by a third between 1997 and 2007-08, from approximately 1.5 million incidents to fewer than 1 million;

public perception of drunk and rowdy behaviour in public places in their area being a fairly big or very big problem has risen from 22 per cent. to 25 per cent. over the last five years;

the proportion of 11 to 15-year-olds who have ever drunk alcohol is falling, from 61 per cent. in 2003 to 54 per cent. in 2007;

average weekly alcohol consumption by those 11 to 15-year-olds who do drink has varied since 2000 with no clear pattern or trend, however average consumption in 2007 was lower than that in 2006;

assessment of the most recent campaign to reduce underage sales of alcohol, Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol, has shown a 20 per cent. fall in failure rates since the last campaign in 2006;

the 2008 review of the Licensing Act found a 5 per cent. decrease in serious violent crime at night, 3 per cent. reduction in less serious wounding at night since implementation of the Act, although between October 2005 and September 2006 there was a small increase in offences reported between 3 am and 6 am; and

alcohol-related hospital admissions are estimated to have risen by about 80,000 admissions a year over the five years 2002-03 to 2006-07.

On 3 December 2008, we announced proposed legislation for powers to create and enforce a mandatory code for alcohol retailers and £4.5 million of investment in an enforcement campaign to tackle alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour.

By introducing a mandatory code, we are acting to restrict irresponsible alcohol promotions, including those based on price. We will act in necessary and proportionate ways to help ensure that the environment in which alcohol is consumed does not encourage excessive consumption.

Alongside this announcement, we published a summary of the responses to the recent public alcohol consultation and the Sheffield University School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR) review of the effects of alcohol price and promotion. Both documents have been placed in the Library.

The Department's new Alcohol Improvement Programme will bring together new and existing guidance, data, good practice and training materials for NHS primary care trusts (PCTs) and alcohol practitioners, along with direct support to those PCTs with the highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Consumers will increasingly have available the information they need to make informed decisions on their consumption.

Industry will be expected to play its part in promoting safer and more sensible drinking.

Advice and support for those who are at most risk will be made available through the effective commissioning and delivery of NHS preventive interventions and treatment.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in England as a result of drinking alcohol in each month of the last four years. [243707]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Cancer

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's strategy on cancer on the rates of those diagnosed with cancer in each year since 2001. [243178]

Ann Keen: Since 2001, the incidence of cancer has increased, this is explained by our aging population and people living longer.

Cancer incidence in England

	Number of new cancer cases	*Male*	*Female*
2006	242,200	121,600	120,600
2005	239,000	119,600	119,400
2004	233,600	117,800	115,800
2003	227,400	112,700	114,700
2002	223,800	112,600	111,200
2001	224,600	112,500	112,100

Cancer statistics are collected routinely and are used to aid both policy development and as proxy indicators for the affect of implemented policy.

In general, the earlier a cancer can be diagnosed, the greater the chance of a cure. Both the NHS Cancer Plan (published 2000) and the Cancer Reform Strategy (published 2007) (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) included programmes of work that attempt to achieve this. Since 2000, we now have:

Faster diagnosis and treatment; waiting times for cancer care have reduced dramatically.

More cancers detected through screening; including the introduction of the bowel- screening programme.

Improved access to better treatments.

A National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative (NAEDI)

We have assessed the wider impact of these cancer strategies by looking at their affect on mortality rates over an extended period. Mortality rates in people under 75 have fallen by 17 per cent. between 1996 and 2005. This performance means that we are expecting to exceed our prostate specific antigen target of a minimum 20 per cent. reduction in cancer mortality by 2010 from 1995 to 1997 rate.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that GPs are always informed about the treatment and follow-up care of cancer patients undertaken by hospitals. [243033]

Ann Keen: The General Medical Council has made it clear that it is the duty of every doctor to work with colleagues in the ways that best serve patients' interests and, subject to patient consent, to keep colleagues well informed when sharing the care of patients. The "Cancer Reform Strategy" (CRS) published in December 2007 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) recommended that commissioners and service providers should ensure they have robust local systems in place to enable patients to experience good continuity of care. Through the NHS IT modernisation programme the Department is introducing an electronic care records service that will allow all clinicians involved in a patient's care to have access to the key information that they need.

The National Cancer Survivorship Initiative will look at ways we can improve the ongoing support for people living with and beyond cancer, and test sites to pilot models of care will focus on all aspects of the care pathway, including assessment, care planning and immediate post treatment approaches to care.

In addition, the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group's independent draft report "Chemotherapy Services in England: Ensuring quality and safety" reinforces the importance of continuity of care. It recommends summary records of chemotherapy treatment are copied to patients and their general practitioners on completion of the treatment and subsequent care plans drawn up and communicated to any relevant health care professionals involved in the management of the patients' care. This report is still subject to consultation until 4 February 2009, and the final report is expected to be published in the spring 2009.

Cancer: Nuclear Power Stations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the potential for causal correlation between incidence of cancer and proximity to nuclear power stations. [244154]

Dawn Primarolo: The independent advisory Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE), which was established in 1985 in response to the final recommendation of the Black report (Black, 1984) has undertaken and published a number of studies on the incidence of cancer in populations in the neighbourhood of nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom. Details of all COMARE's publications are available on its website

www.comare.org.uk.

In 2005 COMARE published its tenth report, which reviewed earlier evidence and presented new data relating to childhood cancers around nuclear installations in Great Britain. By doing this, it investigated whether the claims of an excess of childhood cancer around some specific nuclear installations are a regular feature of the majority of the largest nuclear sites in Great Britain.

The peer-reviewed report concluded that there was no evidence of excess numbers of cases in any local 25 km area around nuclear power stations, which would include either primary exposure to radioactive discharges or secondary exposure from re-suspended material. This report puts various allegations of other cancer clusters around nuclear installations into context.

The 11th COMARE report shows that childhood leukaemia and many other types of childhood cancers do not occur evenly within the population of Great Britain. There are a variety of incidence rates in different geographical and social circumstances and these differ more that would be expected than from simple random or chance variations. This uneven distribution (or clustering) occurs at all levels of population distribution throughout the country, down to very local levels such as those of electoral wards. It is not known why childhood cancers tend to cluster like this. Much attention has been given to interactions between exposure to infections and immune responses. Other possible explanations have also been considered, including exposure to environmental agents. The analyses in this report have been carried out on the largest dataset of childhood cancer cases ever compiled anywhere in the world. The very large dataset gives considerable confidence in the results.

To carry out the studies described in its report required a very large database and was compiled over a considerable time scale. The database was constructed from the National Registry of Childhood Tumours by staff of the Childhood Cancer Research Group in Oxford. The current dataset consists of 12,415 cases of childhood leukaemia and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and 19,908 cases of children with solid tumours registered under the age of 15 in England, Wales and Scotland from 1969 to 1993 inclusive.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which psychiatric hospitals have provided separate units for the assessment of patients arrested by the police under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [240407]

Phil Hope: We do not hold this information centrally.

Dental Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* dental surgeries and *(b)* dental surgeries per head of population in England in (i) hamlets and isolated dwellings, (ii) villages, (iii) towns and fringe settlements and (iv) settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [243174]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of NHS dental practices in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Table 7 of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" report. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

To provide validated information on dental practices under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of dental surgeries per population is not available. However, information is available on the number of persons per NHS dentist (as multiple dentists may work in the same practice).

The number of persons per NHS dentist in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex F of the above publication. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT).

This measure, based on the old contractual arrangements, relates to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year.

Information on population per NHS dentist and NHS dentists per 100,000 population, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, the count of dentists is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Further work is planned over the next few months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Dental Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial allocation for dentistry is in financial year 2008-09 in each primary care trust area in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [244123]

Ann Keen: The primary dental service funding allocations for 2008-09 made to each primary care trust (PCT) in the area of the Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority are set out in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other national health service resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority.

2008-09 primary dental service net allocations to PCTs within the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA area

PCT	*Net allocation (£000)*
Barnsley	9,688
Bradford and Airedale	19,806
Calderdale	8,713
Doncaster	16,058
East Riding of Yorkshire	7,927
Hull	14,382
Kirklees	17,939
Leeds	31,146
North East Lincolnshire	6,265
North Lincolnshire	5,097
North Yorkshire and York	30,088
Rotherham	8,787
Sheffield	24,752
Wakefield District	15,378

Note:
PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Departmental Advisory Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the latest minutes for each of his Department's advisory bodies. [241425]

Mr. Bradshaw: Advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs) are established to provide specialist professional advice to the Secretary of State and the Department of Health.

Independent members are appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Appointments Commission under the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments rules.

As part of the Department's commitment to openness and accountability the minutes of the ANDPBs should always be publicly available unless there is a compelling need for confidentiality, such as commercially sensitive information.

The following ANDPBs publish their minutes on their websites:

Advisory Board on Registration of Homoeopathic Medicines

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/AdvisoryBoardontheRegistrationofHomoeopathicProducts/Minutes/index.htm

Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/arhai/ARHAI-2008-05-20-minutes.pdf

Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acsbto/minutes_of_Meetings.htm

Advisory Group on Hepatitis

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/agh/Minutesmeeting_05_03_08.pdf

British Pharmacopoeia Commission

http://www.pharmacopoeia.gov.uk/the-british-pharmacopoeia-commission/meeting-minutes.php

Commission on Human Medicines

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/CommissiononHumanMedicines/Minutes/index.htm

Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment

http://www.iacoc.org.uk/meetings/index.htm

Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment

http://www.iacom.org.uk/meetings/index.htm

Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/meetings.htm

Committee on the Safety of Devices

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Devices/CommitteeontheSafetyofDevices/Minutes/index.htm

Expert Advisory Group on AIDS

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/eaga/pdfs/EAGA81_public_minutes.pdf

Gene Therapy Advisory Committee

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/genetics/gtac/meetings.htm

Genetics and Insurance Committee

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/genetics/gaic/meetings.htm

Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/HerbalMedicinesAdvisoryCommittee/Minutes/index.htm

Human Genetics Commission

http://www.hgc.gov.uk

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/minutes.htm

National Clinical Audit Advisory Group

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/ncaag/meetings.htm

National Commissioning Group

http://www.ncg.nhs.uk/meetings.htm

National Joint Registry Steering Committee

http://www.njrcentre.org.uk/njrcentre/AbouttheNJR/Publicationsandreports/Steeringcommitteeminutes/tabid/88/Default.aspx

Patient Information Advisory Group

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/piag/Meetings.htm

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/committee/main_sacn_meetings/index.html

The latest available version of their minutes of the following ANDPBs have been placed in the Library. The Department will seek to have such minutes published in future on the ANDPBs website:

Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV

This advisory group publishes annual reports and newsletters on its website which give details of its activities:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publichealth/healthimprovement/sexualhealth/sexualhealthgeneralinformation/dh_4079794

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

This advisory group publishes reports to Secretary of State and an annual review of business. However, they have recently refreshed their website and minutes of meetings will be published on the site from 2009:

http://www.irpanel.org.uk

The following ANDPBs do not make their minutes available:

Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee

The Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee (ARSAC) was set up to advise Ministers with respect to the grant, renewal, suspension, revocation and variation of certificates and generally in connection with the system of prior authorisation required by Article 5(a) of Council Directive 76/579/Euratom.

Applicants for certificates supply information in confidence to the ARSAC in order that they can be assessed for their suitability to hold a certificate. Applicants are normally of consultant status and supply information on their training and experience as well as on the services (such as radiopharmacies and medical physics departments) that support them.

The Committee comments on such applications in confidence. The information accumulated on individual applications is considered by a Department of Health official and if the application is successful the certificate is authorised on behalf of Secretary of State by that official.

Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances

The minutes of ACBS are not published because the Committee deals primarily with applications from manufacturers to have their products listed and as such the Committee's discussions are held in-confidence.

We would not release information under FOI as release of such information is exempt from the right of access under section 43 of the Act, which provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards

The Advisory Committee recommends the names of Consultants for Clinical Excellence Awards to Secretary of State for Health.

The minutes of this advisory body contain person details relating to the persons under discussion and the minutes are therefore confidential.

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

ACDP publishes public summaries, the latest of which is the summary of the June 2008 meeting, available here:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/committees/acdp/100608/summary.pdf.

The minutes are not currently publicly available, but this may change next year.

Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment

COMARE minutes are not published. This is because they often contain confidential information relating to individuals or unpublished research material. This process has been cleared with the Freedom of Information Commissioner.

Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products

The full minutes of the meetings contain commercially sensitive information supplied by companies which cannot be released until the application is approved. The approval process may take several years if, for example, companies conduct further trials as a result of questions from the advisory bodies.

Persons Appointed Panel

The panel performs the function of the person appointed in the Medicines Act 1968 and subsidiary legislation. The function is to consider appeals against decisions of a licensing authority and the minutes are therefore confidential.

Review Body on Doctors and Dentists Remuneration

The Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) along with the other Pay Review Bodies, does not disclose copies of minutes of meetings as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs and inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of the Review Bodies' deliberations.

The NHS Pay Review Body

The NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB), along with the other Pay Review Bodies, does not disclose copies of minutes of meetings as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs and inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of the Review Bodies' deliberations.

The following ANDPB has not held a meeting and there are therefore no minutes available.

Independent Review Panel for Advertising

The ANDPB considers written representations from pharmaceutical companies as to the conformity of their advertising and promotional material with the regulations.

No such representations have yet been made so the ANDPB has not yet held a meeting.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242922]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the past two years no member of the Department's staff has been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing or deliberately disclosing either data stored on departmental equipment or confidential information.

Prior to April 2006 the human resources records of the Department were not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish the information requested.

Policy and procedures on security are constantly reviewed. Data held on the Department's laptops and portable media devices, including memory sticks are encrypted to minimise the risk of confidential data being compromised should the devices be lost or stolen.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243572]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library.

Departmental Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in his Department earned a salary over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [243630]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table presents the data for the years as requested. Figures for 1997 to 2007 are taken from departmental annual reports. The 2008 figure is taken directly from the Department's payroll system.

In post date (1 April each year)	*Number of staff earning a salary over £100,000 on that date*
2008	90
2007	50
2006	64
2005	71
2004	56
2003	52
2002	39
2001	30
2000	23
1999	16
1998	12
1997	8

These figures include secondees from the Department out to other organisations but not secondees from external organisations into the Department.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [240313]

Mr. Bradshaw: Pension information for board members is presented in the Remuneration Report in the Annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department's Resource Accounts for the financial year 2007-08 has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

The Accounts for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Corporate/AnnualReports/CON020817

The Accounts for the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.pasa.nhs.uk/pasaweb/nhsprocurement/aboutnhspasa/publications/corporatepublications.htm

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [241153]

Mr. Bradshaw: The commitment to pay invoices within 10 working days of receipt was made by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2008. Response to this initiative is being led by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), who advise that this applies only to central Government Departments at present and that no targets have yet been set. No data are available for prior years as there was no requirement at that time.

The performance of Government Departments in paying invoices continues to be measured against the Public Sector Payment Policy, which set a target of payment within 30 days in line with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. The Act states that suppliers who are not paid within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice by the party billed are entitled to claim interest on the delayed payment. The Act makes no distinction between small and medium-sized businesses and other suppliers.

The Department has configured its systems to enable its performance to be measured against both the 30-day and 10-day targets from November 2008 for all suppliers, regardless of size. The first formal data collection is being co-ordinated across Government by BERR based on November statistics. 98.02 per cent. of payments made by the Department in November were made within 10 working days of receipt of the invoice.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with mild or moderate depression in *(a)* East Devon, *(b)* the South West region and *(c)* England. [242250]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data are not available about the number of people with mild or moderate depression. However, an Office of National Statistics survey recently found that one sixth of the population suffers from a common mental health problem at any one time.

Depressive Illnesses: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with mild or moderate depression in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [242679]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Most people with depression are seen and treated in primary care. However, data on the number of people with individual conditions seen in primary care—such as depression—are not held centrally. While data are available on the total number of people admitted to the care of a consultant in secondary care with depression, they are likely to exclude many patients diagnosed with mild to moderate depression.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescribing anti-depressant drugs in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire was in the last year for which figures are available. [242600]

Dawn Primarolo: The British National Formulary (BNF) classifies anti-depressant drugs within Section 4.3. The following table shows the net ingredient cost for drugs within this section that have been prescribed in West Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT), which covers Hemel Hempstead, and in West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT combined, which cover Hertfordshire.

Net ingredient cost of anti-depressant drugs (BNF Section 4.3) in 2007-08

Area	*Net ingredient cost (£)*
West Hertfordshire PCT	2,174,240
West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT	4,734,441

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (ePACT)

Depressive Illnesses: Medical Treatments

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that primary care trusts in the South West comply with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on computerised cognitive behavioural therapy for mild and moderate depression; what estimate his Department has made of levels of compliance in the South West; and if he will make a statement. [242073]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are obliged to provide funding for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)-recommended computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) packages where clinicians want to use them, but the Department of Health is not in a position to ring-fence funds specifically for cCBT because decisions about funding local services are made by local commissioners based on local needs assessments.

NICE technology appraisals (TA) are mandatory: if a clinician prescribes a product named in a TA, the PCT concerned has to make it available. Consequently, the Department recognises the important contribution that the effective provision of cCBT will make in supporting the NHS to implement the NICE guidelines and deliver effective treatment for people with depression and anxiety disorders. This is the core aim of the Department's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme.

The Department is investing significantly in the IAPT programme with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

This programme is relieving distress and transforming lives by offering effective intervention and treatment choice to people with depression and anxiety disorders and improving the collection, recording and measuring of patients' health outcomes, producing data that allow further research.

25 organisations—psychological therapies professional bodies and the leading mental health charities—have signed up to the New Savoy Declaration, congratulating the Government on investing in the IAPT programme and pledging their support. CBT has the strongest evidence base and the greatest shortage of fully trained therapists, so we are addressing this shortage first. IAPT services will offer all NICE-approved therapies, including guided self-help, counselling, cCBT, behavioural activation and exercise.

cCBT is recommended by the NICE technology appraisal TA097, and the directions on NICE appraisals impose an obligation on PCTs to ensure that cCBT is "normally available" to be prescribed or supplied and administered to patients.

The Department has taken steps to support the implementation of cCBT. This has included the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) National Framework Agreement (March 2007) providing procurement advice to the national health service, publishing the cCBT Commissioning Guide (March 2007) which provided implementation advice to PCTs and the IAPT Commissioning Toolkit (April 2008) recommending the delivery of cCBT as an integral component of the IAPT model of care.

cCBT is integral to the IAPT model of care which seeks to enable the NHS to implement the full range of NICE guidelines for effective treatment of people with depression and anxiety disorders.

The Department's position is that while it continues to recognise the benefit of using cCBT to implement evidence-based psychological therapy services and it has acted to support the NHS in delivery, the level of uptake of cCBT is ultimately the decision of the local clinicians and NHS commissioners based on their assessment of the needs of their local populations.

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children between the ages of *(a)* five and seven, *(b)* eight and 12 and *(c)* 13 and 16 years in (i) North Wiltshire and (ii) London have type 1 diabetes. [243779]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. However, estimates suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority Type 1 diabetes) and some experts suggest that there may also be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged 16 years old and under have diabetes in England; and if he will make a statement. [244168]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are some 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Diabetes: Research

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department in each of the last five years on research into type 1 diabetes. [243780]

Ann Keen: The available information is shown in the following table.

All diabetes research

£ million

	Department	*Medical Research Council*
2003-04	18.3	11.4
2004-05	19.1	9.8
2005-06	20.4	13.9
2006-07	24.5	20
2007-08	29.3	21.7

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have since 2001 accounted for their use of the research and development allocations received from the Department in an annual report. The reports do not separately identify the cost of research concerned specifically with type 1 diabetes.

Departmental expenditure from 2006-07 includes the costs of the National Institute for Health Research diabetes clinical research network formed in May 2006.

Direct Payments

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which the draft Regulations on the extension of direct payments provide protection for those who lack capacity as a result of mental illness. [242558]

Phil Hope: A consultation has just been carried out on the draft regulations in respect of the provisions in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 to extend direct payments to those without capacity, including those who lack capacity as a result of mental health problems.

Over 100 written responses have been received, mainly from local authorities, voluntary organisations, professional bodies and user and carer networks, including the Mental Health Foundation. The responses are currently being analysed and we are also working closely with the No Secrets: Safeguarding team.

Next year, statutory guidance will be published on the regulations to support councils in making direct payments to these individuals.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure was by his Department on drug and alcohol treatment in 2007-08; and what percentage of the overall budget was spent on monitoring and management of the commissioning process. [241689]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department, in association with a small contribution from the Home Office and subsequently the Ministry of Justice, has provided specific resources to local partnerships for drug treatment since 2001. This has been through the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), with £398 million of funding provided in 2007-08. At a local level, partnerships also make available funding for drug treatment from mainstream allocations in addition to the PTB.

The cost of alcohol treatment is met through NHS mainstream expenditure in line with local needs and priorities and is not collected centrally. However, access to treatment is reported through a national alcohol treatment monitoring system. There is also an NHS vital signs indicator to reduce the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions, which has been adopted by 99 primary care trusts in their operating plans for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Information on the percentage of the overall budget spent on monitoring and management of the commissioning process locally is not collected centrally.

However, £11.457 million was allocated by the Department in 2008-09 to the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) a special health authority with responsibility for improving the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England.

General Practitioners

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* GP surgeries and *(b)* GP surgeries per head of population in England in (i) hamlets and isolated dwellings, (ii) villages, (iii) towns and fringe settlements and (iv) settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [243175]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold centrally the information requested.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W, on health centres, what assessment he has made of the effect of a minimum income guarantee for a new health centre on existing patient lists at general practices. [242453]

Mr. Bradshaw: Providing an income guarantee to a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre will have no impact on the funding of existing GP practices.

It is for each primary care trust to determine locally the funding for their health centre, including what percentage of income is to be guaranteed to the provider and for how long.

Health Services: Children

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish its child health strategy. [242938]

Ann Keen: Children, families and stakeholders have been engaged in developing the strategy over the summer, and the proposals are being aligned with other activity and recommendations from key reviews such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services review. We expect to be in a position to publish the Child Health Strategy soon.

Health Services: East of England

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of waiting lists in each category for NHS patients in the East of England was in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005; and what the length of each list was at the latest date for which figures are available. [243982]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the total in-patient waiting list by specialty for the East of England area in March 1997, March 2001, March 2005 and September 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Quarter ending			
Specialty	*March 1997*	*March 2001*	*March 2005*	*September 2007*
General surgery	13.9	12.8	8.9	5.3
Urology	12.2	11.9	7.8	4.7
Trauma and orthopaedics	17.2	18.9	11.8	7.9
Ear nose and throat	12.8	12.4	9.3	6.7
Ophthalmology	17.0	15.3	5.8	5.4
Oral surgery	15.9	10.3	8.5	6.7
Orthodontics	17.5	20.4	n/a	5.7
Neurosurgery	17.4	17.6	11.7	5.9
Plastic surgery	16.5	12.9	10.5	5.9
Cardiothoracic surgery	15.5	18.1	6.5	6.1
Paediatric surgery	11.1	9.4	7.8	6.1
Accident and emergency	19.7	n/a	16.3	n/a
Anaesthetics	8.7	11.2	9.8	6.7
Pain management	n/a	9.6	4.8	n/a
General medicine	7.9	8.9	5.3	2.8
Gastroenterology	8.6	7.7	4.6	2.4
Endocrinology	9.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clinical haematology	8.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clinical immunology and allergy	n/a	n/a	23.5	n/a
Rehabilitation	15.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cardiology	13.0	12.9	8.3	4.7
Dermatology	9.9	7.6	5.4	3.7
Thoracic medicine	9.0	8.0	7.3	3.2
Nephrology	10.7	8.0	6.4	2.2
Neurology	8.5	8.4	7.1	4.2
Rheumatology	12.5	7.7	4.2	2.4
Paediatrics	8.9	8.7	4.1	4.4
Paediatric neurology	n/a	11.7	n/a	n/a
Geriatric medicine	7.2	7.1	5.9	n/a
Gynaecology	11.5	10.6	8.0	5.7
General practice (non maternity)	10.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clinical oncology	8.1	n/a	n/a	1.0
Radiology	7.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
All Specialties	13.7	13.0	8.6	5.8

	Month ending October 2008
All Specialties	4.4

Notes:
1. Inpatient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. Data no longer collected by specialty after 30 September 2007

Source:
The Department of Health quarterly waiting list statistics KH07.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the arrangements put in place by primary healthcare trusts to inform health practitioners of veterans' priority treatment entitlement. [243224]

Mr. Bradshaw: An update to existing guidance issued on 12 December 2007 to the NHS on priority treatment for war pensioners for any condition related to their service (HSG(97)21) extended entitlement to all veterans from 1 January 2008. This included a requirement that all GPs and clinical staff in PCTs and acute and mental health trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts were made aware of the changes. In line with the Government's policy of devolving decisions on how change is delivered in NHS organisations, it is appropriate for PCTs to decide how to take this forward. The Operating Framework published earlier this month draws attention to the need to take account of the special circumstances of veterans as part of the commissioning process. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Hearing Aid Council

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* consumers and *(b)* dispensers of the decision to delay the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council (HAC) until 31 March 2010; and whether HAC will be given additional powers to protect consumers during the period before the switch of responsibilities from it to the Health Professions Council. [243840]

Ann Keen: The Department, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Hearing Aid Council and the Health Professions Council are working towards the required legislation to allow the closure of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of its register.

The Health Professions Council has powers to protect consumers that the Hearing Aid Council does not. The Hearing Aid Council have estimated that the additional cost to the industry is £1,107 and this is tax deductible.

The Hearing Aid Council's powers will remain unchanged until the date of transfer of the dispensers to the Health Professions Council.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in *(a)* each strategic health authority area, *(b)* each primary care trust area and *(c)* England in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) reason for delay and (ii) age of patient; and how many patients in each case were occupying an acute hospital bed. [241271]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Data on the reason for the delayed discharge are not collected centrally for primary care trusts.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed nights patients who were ready for discharge spent in hospital in the last 12 months; and what the estimated total cost to the NHS of these delayed discharges was. [241996]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: In the year ending 16 November 2008 there was a total of 1,737,475 bed-days as a result of delayed discharges from both acute and non-acute hospital beds in England. This represents a fall of almost 10 per cent. over the previous 12 months.

We have made no estimate of the cost of these delayed discharges. Since January 2004, if a patient remains in hospital because social services have not provided the assessments or services the patient or their carer needs to be safely discharged, the local authority is liable to pay the national health service a charge per day of delay. The charge has been set at a level higher than the cost of providing services to support discharge to act as an incentive to councils to improve their assessment and service provision.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to abolish hospital car park charges in England for cancer patients; [242999]

(2) if he will direct hospital trusts not to charge for hospital car parking for cancer patients. [243032]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of car parking and the setting of appropriate car parking charges are decided by individual trusts, taking into account different local operating circumstances.

Guidelines issued by the Department to support trusts to implement parking policies does advise that trusts should have schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. These schemes may include charging exemptions, concessionary or capped rates. Cancer patients in particular should benefit from these schemes.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of waiting lists in each category for NHS patients in the North East was in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005; and what the length of each list was at the latest date for which figures are available. [242387]

Ann Keen: Information on the total in-patient waiting list by specialty for the north-east Area in March 1997, March 2001, March 2005 and September 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Quarter ending			
Specialty	*March 1997*	*March 2001*	*March 2005*	*September 2007*
General surgery	12,454	10,202	5,882	4,158
Urology	4,811	4,449	3,267	2,404
Trauma and orthopaedics	11,657	11,379	10,063	9,055
Ear, nose and throat	5,024	4,300	3,471	2,495
Ophthalmology	7,522	6,473	3,464	3,802
Oral surgery	3,850	1,395	1,972	1,996
Restorative dentistry	0	0	0	0
Orthodontics	24	21	0	0
Neurosurgery	857	728	834	660
Plastic surgery	3,015	2,500	2,339	1,468
Cardiothoracic surgery	678	867	221	248
Paediatric surgery	598	927	596	412
Accident and Emergency	472	68	87	0
Anaesthetics	280	137	44	418
Pain management	0	414	349	0
General medicine	1,080	542	375	236
Gastroenterology	400	194	2	501
Endocrinology	0	15	0	9
Clinical haematology	18	17	5	6
Clinical pharmacology	7	9	0	0
Rehabilitation	11	1	4	3
Palliative medicine	8	0	0	0
Cardiology	1,406	1,118	1,350	1,335
Dermatology	328	273	32	667
Thoracic medicine	173	15	23	61
Infectious diseases	0	0	0	0
Nephrology	27	8	6	3
Neurology	306	240	202	120
Rheumatology	130	26	15	3
Paediatrics	1	11	0	13
Paediatric neurology	0	0	0	0
Geriatric medicine	13	19	1	0
Medical ophthalmology	0	0	0	0
Gynaecology	4,101	3,154	2,055	1,067
General practice (non-maternity)	257	0	0	0
Mental handicap	4	4	21	11
Mental illness	58	11	4	5
Child and adolescent psychiatry		1	3	0
Forensic psychiatry	0	0	0	0
Old age psychiatry	23	6	2	0
Clinical oncology	45	0	2	42
Occupational medicine	0	0	0	222
All specialties	60,467	49,800	37,403	32,536

	Month ending October 2008
All specialties	20,107

Notes:
1. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. Data no longer collected by specialty after 30 September 2007.

Source:
The Department quarterly waiting list statistics KH07

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what account was taken of experience in other countries using *(a)* Cervarix and *(b)* Gardisil in the appraisals undertaken to inform the decision to select Cervarix as the national Human Papilloma Virus vaccine. [242402]

Dawn Primarolo: The award criteria for the evaluation of the contract to supply Human papillovirus (HPV) vaccine is set out as follows. These do not include criteria regarding experience in other countries.

Criteria	*Points*
Quality of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18	Maximum (Max) of 5,000
Duration of protection against cervical cancers caused by HPV strains 16/18 for more than 10 years duration	Max of 3,000
Quality of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV Strains 6/11	Max of 1,300
Duration of protection against anogenital warts caused by HPV Strains 6/11 for more than 10 years duration	Max of 500
Quality of protection against HPV strains not included in the vaccine formulation	Max of 1000
Other evidence of additional clinical benefits	Max of 500
Effective Price per dose excluding VAT	Commercially confidential
Supply of the vaccine as single pre-filled syringe pack presentation	Max of 10
Quality of labelling, leaflets and presentation	Max of 5
Shelf life	Max of 120
Flexibility in the vaccine dosage schedule	Max of 70
Offers that reduce the risk of wastage if the vaccine is subject to temperatures above 8°C (this include the provision of temperature indicators and evidence based guidance on the stability of the vaccines at higher storage temperatures and subsequent safe administration.)	Max of 200
Closeness of proposed delivery schedule to Authority requirements	Max of 200
Pallet configuration including a preference for the use of Euro pallets	Max of 5
Impact of proposed amendments to the terms and conditions	(-500). Offerors may lose up to 500 points
Quality/Robustness of manufacturing contingency arrangements	Max of 10
Quality/Robustness of the risk Management of storage and distribution	Max of 10
Information provided relating to pack sizes, Cold Chain Delivery, Batch Numbering systems and production capacity	Max of 5

Injuries: Young People

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for *(a)* unintended and *(b)* deliberate injury there were per 10,000 people aged under 19 years in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [240729]

Ann Keen: The data requested are in the table. They provide a count of finished in-year admission episodes for 2006-07 using the ICD-10 external cause codes which fall into the following categories:

Unintended injury;
Deliberate injury;
"Other" injury.

The rates given are per 10,000 of the 0-18 population for each of the categories using mid-2006 population estimates.

Count of admissions to hospital for unintended, deliberate and "other" injuries for under-19s, per 10,000 of the population (2006-07) (Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector)

External cause type	*Finished admission episodes (age 0-18 inclusive)*	*Rate per 10,000 population*
Unintended	146,507	125.5
Deliberate	24,673	21.1
Other	889	0.8

Notes:
1. *Finished in-year admissions:*
A finished in-year admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Finished in-year admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode starts and finishes. Therefore, admission episodes that start and finish in different years are not counted—for most conditions this represents a small proportion of the total. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. *Cause code:*
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES counts only the first external cause code, which is coded within the episode.
3. *Data quality:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. *Ungrossed data:*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
5. *External cause codes:*
(a) Unintended: V01-X59 (accidents), Y40-Y84 (complications of medical and surgical care), Y85-Y86, Y88 (sequelae of unintended causes), Y90-Y98 (supplementary factors). Excluding: X33-X39 (forces of nature) & X52 (prolonged stay in weightless environment).
(b) Deliberate: X60-X84 (intentional self-harm), X85-Y09 (assault), Y87.0-Y87.1 (sequelae of intentional self-harm and assault).
(c) Other: Y10-Y34 (undetermined intent), Y35-Y36 (legal intervention and war), Y87.2 (sequelae of undetermined intent), Y89 (sequelae of other external causes).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. 2006 Mid Year Estimates, 2001 Census based from: ONS Population Estimates Unit.

Kidney Patients

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people required kidney dialysis in *(a)* Halton, *(b)* Cheshire and *(c)* Merseyside in the latest year for which figures are available; [243149]

(2) how many kidney dialysis units there were in the North West of England in each year since 1997. [243151]

Ann Keen: The information is not centrally available.

Information on the number of patients on dialysis is collected by the UK Renal Registry. The annual reports contain analysis of data from 1997 to 2006 and can be found on the Renal Registry's website at the following website:

www.renalreg.com

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of purchasing kidney dialysis by the National Health Service in each year since 1997. [243150]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected by the Department for the period for which it is requested. In 2005-06, expenditure on haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis in England was estimated to be £430 million.

Information on the number of patients on dialysis is collected by the UK Renal Registry. The annual reports containing analysis of data from 1997 to 2006 can be found on the Renal Registry's website at the following website:

http://www.renalreg.com

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase levels of funding for local authorities to take account of the effect of the increasing number of people with learning disabilities on provision made by local authority social services departments. [243006]

Phil Hope: The Valuing People Now strategy will be published early in the new year. In taking forward this strategy, we will continue to explore how to improve information on the number and needs of people with learning disabilities, in discussion with the Learning Disability Coalition and councils. This will enable better understanding of current and projected demands for this area and help to inform local needs assessments.

An extensive public engagement on care and support has just ended. This looked at the principles that should underpin reform for the provision and funding of care and support services to reflect the increasing pressure of rising need levels, including the increasing number of people with learning disabilities. The engagement will help inform the Care and Support Green Paper, which will also be published early in 2009.

It is the responsibility of local councils to determine how much of their funding is allocated between different local priorities, including adult social care and, therefore, services for people with learning disabilities.

Medical Records: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to healthcare trusts on the release of medical records to representatives of deceased people. [243935]

Mr. Bradshaw: Access to the health records of a deceased person is governed by the Access to Health Records Act 1990. Guidance to trusts and the public on how to access such records is provided in the form of 'frequently asked questions' on the Department's website and can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Informationpolicy/Patientconfidentialityandcaldicottguardians/FAQ/DH_065886#_38

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* amendments have been made to and *(b)* recent representations he has received on the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement; [242699]

(2) which *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential on the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [242700]

Phil Hope: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 has been amended under the Mental Health Act to introduce the Deprivation Of Liberty Safeguards which will come into force on 1 April 2009. It was also used to introduce a small amendment to increase access to the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service.

Officials are working on the implementation of both the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the subsequent amendments and they have been involved in consultations on the new code and the development of training and forms and monitoring. They are working closely with stakeholders from a range of organisations.

There have been no recent ministerial representations on the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Three statutory instruments have been laid in relation to the amendments to the Mental Capacity Act brought about by the Mental Health Act. In addition, the code of practice for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, a Local Authority Circular and a letter to the NHS have been issued.

There are plans to lay one further statutory instrument on monitoring the Safeguards and to issue further local authority circulars and letters to the NHS as required.

The relevant legislative and non-legislative information is as follows.

Statutory Instruments (SI)

2008 No. 1858

Mental Capacity, England: The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Standard Authorisations, Assessments and Ordinary Residence) Regulations 2008

Made: 9 July 2008; came into force: 3 November 2008

2008 No. 1315

Mental Capacity, England

The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Appointment of Relevant Person's Representative) Regulations 2008

Made: 14 May 2008; Laid 20 May 2008; came into force: 3 November 2008

2008 No. 2368

Mental Capacity, England

The Mental Capacity (Deprivation of Liberty: Appointment of Relevant Person's Representative) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

Made: 5 September 2008; Laid 12 September 2008; came into force: 3rd November 2008

A further SI on monitoring will be laid

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Code of Practice

Under the Amendment to the MCA, brought about by the MHA, the Lord Chancellor has issued a code of practice for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (which is subject to the negative parliamentary process) and which was published in August 2008.

The Department has issued one Local Authority Circular, which sets out the resources available to local authorities over the three year period: LAC (DH) 2008.

The Department sent one letter to chief executives on 28 April about resources being made available to the NHS.

There will be further correspondence with both local authorities and the NHS in 2009 about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

Mental Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* crisis resolution, *(b)* assertive outreach and *(c)* early intervention teams in the field of mental health there were at the end of March 2008. [240359]

Phil Hope: At the end of March 2008, in England there were 344 crisis resolution, 249 assertive outreach and 150 early intervention teams.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Mental Health Act 2007 to include mental capacity as a condition of compulsory treatment in light of the NHS constitution. [240530]

Phil Hope: The Government have no plans to amend the Mental Health Act 2007 (or the Mental Health Act 1983) to make compulsory treatment under that legislation conditional on a person either having, or lacking, capacity to consent.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local psychological therapy services there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [240720]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. However, the Government are committed to delivering a significant expansion of appropriately trained and accredited psychological therapists to build on these existing services and provide access to people across the country who experience the debilitating conditions of depression and/or anxiety disorders.

Training this new work force will take time, so Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services will be implemented carefully over the next few years. This process started with the first 37 primary care trust areas implementing their new services in November this year and the Department expects that by 2011 half of England will have access to these services.

We are investing significantly in the IAPT programme, with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year, to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat up to 900,000 more people in those three years.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in training therapists under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme; and if he will make a statement. [240721]

Phil Hope: There are currently more than 800 trainees on courses against a target of 700 set out by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) last year.

This figure is likely to rise to 1,100 when the second cohort starts in the spring next year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to improve progress towards standard 6 of the National Service Framework for Mental Health. [240722]

Phil Hope: Our vision is that all carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role.

The Carers' Strategy, 'Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families and Communities', published in June 2008 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), makes it clear that carers of all ages should not have to ignore personal health concerns and needs because their caring role does not allow the time to address them. The services and support available to carers should be such to enable them to stay as mentally and physically well as possible throughout their caring role, from young carers through to older carers.

The strategy therefore makes the commitment to pilot annual health checks for carers in a number of primary care trust (PCT) areas. It was envisaged in the strategy that they will focus on carers in the highest intensity roles. Health checks should give both carers and health professionals an opportunity to detect and deal with, at an early stage, any problems the carer may have.

By December 2006 there were 796 mental health carer support workers in place to increase the breaks available for carers and to strengthen carer support networks.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are being treated in medium secure mental health services. [243152]

Phil Hope: The data collected record the numbers of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units only, and the data include high, medium and some low secure units. These figures only show NHS beds and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers.

The following table shows the average availability and daily occupancy of NHS secure unit beds, and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units in England in 2007-08.

Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units—2007-08

	Number
Available Mental Illness	3,159
Occupancy Mental Illness	2,885
Available Learning Disability	554
Occupancy Learning Disability	508

Note:

The definitions of Mental Health and Learning Disability Secure Unit Beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection; are:

Mental Illness—Other ages, Secure unit an AGE GROUP INTENDED of National Code 8 'Any age', a BROAD PATIENT GROUP CODE of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a CLINICAL CARE INTENSITY of National Code 51 'for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management'. This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward.

Learning disabilities—Other ages, Secure unit an AGE GROUP INTENDED of National Code 8 'Any age', a BROAD PATIENT GROUP CODE of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a CLINICAL CARE INTENSITY of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit';

Source:

Department of Health Dataset KH03

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of the Healthcare Commission's report on the 2006 national census of inpatients in mental health and learning disability services, Count Me In, with respect to the diagnosis, medication and accommodation of patients from ethnic minorities. [242374]

Phil Hope: The Healthcare Commission published its report on the 2008 Count Me In census on 27 November. Count Me In does not collect information about patients' diagnosis or medication.

We welcomed the report and concur with its principal conclusions. Mental health services still need to do more to meet the needs of diverse communities and tackle inequalities in mental health. Our Delivering Race Equality action plan, supported by over 400 new community development workers across the country, has already helped to deliver progress and remains the blueprint for services to follow.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve mental health provision in the Asian community; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those steps. [242377]

Phil Hope: In 2005 the Department launched 'Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care' (DRE). DRE is a five year action plan designed to improve black and minority ethnic (BME) communities' experience of mental health services, including that of Asian communities.

There has been significant progress. The DRE programme has helped to develop replicable good practice around tailored pathways of care for BME service users—for example, the collaboration between the Sheffield mental health crisis resolution and home treatment service and the local Pakistani Muslim Centre. New training in race equality for mental health staff has been tested successfully and made available nationally. The pilot project in Newham, East London, of the programme improving access to psychological therapies has demonstrated that Asian and other BME communities can have equal access to, and equal outcomes from, the new services. Primary care trusts have so far recruited over 400 new community development workers, whose role is to build links between local BME communities and mental health services and to help communities play a part in planning and providing those services.

We do, though, believe that the national health service still must do more to meet the needs of increasingly diverse local populations, particularly by delivering early and equitable access to effective community-based interventions. These issues will stay a priority for services for the duration of the DRE programme and beyond.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has commissioned research into mental health problems amongst Asian women in England; [242378]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to address the stigma attached to mental health problems in the Asian community. [242379]

Phil Hope: The Department's National Institute for Health Research is not currently funding research of this kind. The 2002 survey of Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates in the Community (EMPIRIC) provided estimates of the prevalence of common mental disorders and psychosis, information on social support and information on access to services. Estimates are provided for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_4005698.

The Department's Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care programme (DRE) is helping to raise awareness among black and minority ethnic communities of mental health issues and to develop services more sensitive to communities' particular needs. It is also collaborating with Shift, the Department's five-year campaign addressing stigma and mental health.

In November 2008 Shift launched the award-winning short film 'Open Secrets', about the stigma surrounding mental illness in the Asian community. The film has been dubbed into Gujarati and Hindi. 'Open Secrets' is intended to be used by DRE's network of community development workers and as a tool to influence Asian media, health and social care organisations and policymakers. Shift and DRE will promote the film at regional and local screenings in community and health and social care contexts to raise awareness and promote discussion. The film will be available on the internet from 1 April 2009.

Shift has also commissioned the consultancy Ethnic Communications to carry out a qualitative research project looking at how mental health stories are portrayed in the South Asian media. This work will be published at the DRE national conference in March 2009.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the prison health care budget was spent on mental health care during the last financial year. [240693]

Phil Hope: Commissioning responsibility for mental health care and treatment within the prison estate transferred fully to primary care trusts in 2006.

Investment in health services provided to prisons increased from £118 million in 2002-03 to nearly £200 million in 2007-08. By 2005-06, nearly £20 million was being invested recurrently in mental health in-reach services. There are now 102 mental health in-reach teams and all prisons now have access to them.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving the target of a waiting time of 14 days for the transfer of prisoners with severe mental illness to hospital; and if he will make a statement. [240712]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently exploring ways to make progress towards the 14 day standard waiting time for transfer through the provision of guidance and support for the national health service and Criminal Justice System to work in closer partnership together, and reduce delays for this very vulnerable group.

We have asked Lord Bradley to consider the diversion of offenders with mental health problems and learning disabilities away from prison and we expect his report to be available next year.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being, with particular reference to the costs to the NHS of managing mental ill health; and if he will make a statement. [244029]

Phil Hope: The Government welcome the findings of the Foresight research report into mental capital and well-being, in particular, its emphasis on enabling people to realise increased mental well-being. We recognise the significant cost of mental ill health to the economy as a whole. Since 2001-02, our investment in adult mental health services has increased by 44 per cent. or £1.7 billion, to £5.53 billion.

We are already taking forward action in a number of ways consistent with the report's conclusions. For example, we are investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

The Foresight report will continue to inform the development of mental health policy, in particular, the new policy framework that will succeed the mental health national service framework.

Mentally Ill: Cannabis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions on mental health grounds resulting from the use of cannabis there were in each year since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority area. [242409]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the Library.

Midwives

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per whole-time equivalent NHS midwife there were in each year since 2001, broken down by primary care trust area. [243628]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected in the format requested. The following table has the number of births per whole-time midwife in each year since 2001, broken down by strategic health authority.

National health services hospital and community health services: live births per full-time equivalent midwives in England by strategic health authority (SHA) as at 30 September in each specified year

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	31	31	32	32	32	34	34
North East SHA	25	26	27	27	28	29	29
North West SHA	25	24	26	25	26	27	28
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	30	29	30	30	30	33	33
East Midlands SHA	32	34	35	37	37	39	40
West Midlands SHA	29	29	29	30	31	32	32
East of England SHA	39	37	38	39	38	38	38
London SHA	37	38	36	37	35	35	36
South East SHA	38	35	37	36	36	37	37
South Central SHA	35	35	37	38	40	43	40
South West SHA	27	28	29	29	29	31	32

Notes:

1. Birth registrations 2001 to 2007 as at 31 December in each specified year. Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. SHA totals 2001 to 2005 have been calculated using previous health authority (HA) and SHA configurations. HAs were reconfigured to become 28 SHAs in 2002 and were subsequently reconfigured into 10 SHAs in 2006. Due to overlaps in the HA/SHA reconfigurations, parts of West Pennine HA and North Derbyshire HA were split over Trent SHA and Greater Manchester SHA. These figures were included in the Trent SHA total to give the figure for the new East Midlands SHA.

Sources:

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-medical Workforce Census.

Office for National Statistics Birth Registrations 2001-07.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS, on the NHS Operating Framework, what weighting is given to age in each year's allocations to primary care trusts. [243769]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2009-10 and 2010-11 have been informed by the new weighted capitation formula recommended by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. The weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCTs' target allocations, and gives older people a much higher weighting than those in their twenties and thirties.

Around 30 per cent. of the variation in target allocations per head between PCTs is estimated to be due to differences in the ages of PCTs' populations. Actual allocations to PCTs depend also on pace of change policy; how quickly PCTs are brought closer towards their target allocations through the distribution of additional funding. Due to pace of change policy, it is not possible to estimate how much variation in actual allocations between PCTs is due to age.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Written Ministerial Statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS, on the NHS Operating Framework, if he will provide a breakdown by financial year of the £800 million drawdown of the NHS surplus; and by what mechanism the drawdown will take place. [243770]

Mr. Bradshaw: The aggregate surplus delivered in 2008-09 by strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) will be carried forward into 2009-10. This surplus will start to be deployed in a planned and managed way and will probably total some £800 million over the two financial years, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The mechanism that will be used to deploy the surplus is through each SHA area determining and agreeing with the Department the level of accumulated surplus deployment required for 2009-10 and 2010-11 based on their local planning requirements.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons primary care trusts are not receiving an increase in their resource budgets equivalent to the increases in his Department's resource budgets for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [243836]

Mr. Bradshaw: The additional resources that primary care trusts (PCTs) received in 2008-09 were not limited to the 5.5 per cent. uplift in revenue allocations. In addition, the Department allocated a further £1.7 billion of central budgets direct to PCTs thereby increasing the proportion of the total NHS revenue budget that is allocated direct to PCTs.

In 2009-10 the Department will hold an unallocated sum for contingencies, on a non-recurrent basis. These will be released over the year, over and above the 5.5 per cent. allocations growth. Decisions on 2010-11 central contingencies will be made as part of the planning process for 2010-11.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of his Department's revenue budget has been allocated to primary care trusts for each year from 1996-97 to 2010-11. [243838]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested statistics are shown in the following table.

	NHS revenue expenditure (£ billion)[1,2,3,4,5]	*Revenue allocations including additional funding announced alongside allocations (£ billion)*[6]	*Percentage of NHS revenue in PCT control at time of allocations announcement*
1996-97	31.656	22.714	71.8
1997-98	33.575	23.843	71.0
1998-99	35.801	24.951	69.7
1999-2000	39.293	31.328	79.7
2000-01	42.686	34.429	80.7
2001-02	47.289	37.220	78.7
2002-03	51.935	41.270	79.5
2003-04	61.865	45.313	73.2
2004-05	66.873	49.673	74.3
2005-06	74.168	54.307	73.2
2006-07	78.468	64.644	82.4
2007-08	86.344	70.689	81.9
2008-09	92.475	75.880	82.1
2009-10	98.263	80.031	81.4
2010-11	104.603	84.432	80.7

[1] Changes to accounting treatment mean that figures are not consistent over the period, therefore it is difficult to make comparisons

[2] Expenditure before 1999-2000 is on a cash basis

[3] Expenditure figures from 1999-00 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis

[4] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 are on a Stage 2 Resource Budgeting basis

[5] 2002-03 to 2006-07 figures are outturn (the actual year end position). 2007-08 figures are estimated outturn, and 2008-09 to 2010-11 is plan.

[6] The additional funding announced alongside allocations might include central budgets or other special allocations which determine PCT initial resource limits

NHS: ICT

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterpart in the Government of Singapore and *(b)* Singaporean health care institutions on the Lorenzo software product; and if he will make a statement; [243187]

(2) what plans his Department has to study the effectiveness of the use of the Lorenzo software product by Singhealth; and if he will make a statement. [243189]

Mr. Bradshaw: None. However, a number of telephone calls have been conducted between NHS Connecting for Health officials and Singhealth for the purposes of gathering background information about experience in Singapore. The Department currently has no plans to conduct a detailed review of the experience of the Lorenzo product at Singhealth.

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterpart in the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and *(b)* health care institutions in the UAE on the deployment of Cerner electronic patient management and care record systems; and if he will make a statement. [243188]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change in real terms was in *(a)* nurses' and *(b)* NHS ancillary staff pay in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [243781]

Ann Keen: The increase in real terms in nurses pay and ancillary staff pay for each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

	Nurses		*Ancillary staff*	
	Increase in average earnings (percentage)	*Real terms increase (percentage)*	*Increase in average earnings (percentage)*	*Real terms increase (percentage)*
2004-05	5.10	2.32	8.70	5.82
2005-06	3.90	1.81	6.60	4.46
2006-07	3.90	1.18	6.60	3.81
2007-08	4.00	0.91	6.70	3.53
2008-09	5.30	1.99	5.30	1.99

NHS: Payments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of NHS bodies in making payments to suppliers within 10 days of receiving an invoice; and if he will make a statement. [244583]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not currently collect such performance data because no specific requirement has yet been placed on national health service bodies to meet a 10 day target.

However, David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, wrote to all NHS Trust Chief Executives on 21 October asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. Bill Moyes, Executive Chair, Monitor, has written similarly to all foundation trusts.

NHS prompt payment performance against the 30 day payment target is reported in annual accounts. The 2007-08 accounts for NHS Trusts recorded an 83 per cent. achievement against the 30 day payment target for non-NHS payments.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head of population by each primary care trust in 2007-08, ranked from the highest to lowest. [243963]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is shown in the following table.

Primary care trust	*Spend per head of population (£)*
Islington PCT	1,992
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,921
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1,890
Southwark PCT	1,881
Lambeth PCT	1,859
Knowsley PCT	1,858
Liverpool PCT	1,835
Stoke on Trent PCT	1,827
Salford PCT	1,826
Camden PCT	1,815
Middlesbrough PCT	1,806
Manchester PCT	1,797
Blackpool PCT	1,772
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1,752
Lewisham PCT	1,736
Newcastle PCT	1,708
South Tyneside PCT	1,691
Newham PCT	1,672
Gateshead PCT	1,666
Wakefield District PCT	1,664
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,652
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,645
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,642
Hartlepool PCT	1,635
Sefton PCT	1,625
Wirral PCT	1,625
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,614
South Birmingham PCT	1,608
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,606
Wandsworth PCT	1,597
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,594
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,594
Sandwell PCT	1,589
North Tyneside PCT	1,589
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,585
Nottingham City PCT	1,581
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,578
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,577
Oldham PCT	1,574
Hull Teaching PCT	1,567
County Durham PCT	1,564
Doncaster PCT	1,561
Brent Teaching PCT	1,561
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,557
Darlington PCT	1,554
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,549
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,548
Sheffield PCT	1,546
Barnsley PCT	1,546
Northumberland Care PCT	1,545
Torbay Care PCT	1,544
Bristol PCT	1,543
Westminster PCT	1,541
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,537
Ealing PCT	1,529
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,525
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,518
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	1,510
Peterborough PCT	1,506
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,505
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,498
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,497
Rotherham PCT	1,497
Leeds PCT	1,494
Leicester City PCT	1,488
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,486
Waltham Forest PCT	1,484
Bolton PCT	1,477
Central Lancashire PCT	1,473
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,468
Southampton City PCT	1,465
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,464
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1,456
North Tees PCT	1,453
Hounslow PCT	1,451
Cumbria PCT	1,445
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,440
Enfield PCT	1,440
West Essex PCT	1,436
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,435
Derby City PCT	1,429
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,429
Calderdale PCT	1,426
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,417
Dudley PCT	1,414
Bury PCT	1,413
Trafford PCT	1,410
Devon PCT	1,410
Stockport PCT	1,408
Western Cheshire PCT	1,405
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,400
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,398
Derbyshire County PCT	1,392
North Staffordshire PCT	1,388
Havering PCT	1,384
North Somerset PCT	1,382
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,378
West Sussex PCT	1,376
Bassetlaw PCT	1,373
Dorset PCT	1,372
Kirklees PCT	1,369
Warrington PCT	1,367
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,364
Shropshire County PCT	1,360
Barnet PCT	1,359
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,351
Herefordshire PCT	1,347
South East Essex PCT	1,346

Primary care trust	*Spend per head of population (£)*
Harrow PCT	1,344
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,344
Redbridge PCT	1,343
Somerset PCT	1,338
North East Essex PCT	1,330
Croydon PCT	1,329
Hillingdon PCT	1,326
Swindon PCT	1,322
Bexley NHS Care Trust PCT	1,321
Norfolk PCT	1,320
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,318
Luton PCT	1,317
Warwickshire PCT	1,315
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,312
Solihull NHS Care Trust PCT	1,311
Bromley PCT	1,309
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1,305
Worcestershire PCT	1,301
South Staffordshire PCT	1,301
Surrey PCT	1,299
Gloucestershire PCT	1,298
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,297
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,294
South West Essex PCT	1,290
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	1,277
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,271
Medway PCT	1,264
West Kent PCT	1,256
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,255
Oxfordshire PCT	1,254
Berkshire East PCT	1,233
Suffolk PCT	1,232
Milton Keynes PCT	1,228
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,215
Kingston PCT	1,214
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,214
Berkshire West PCT	1,205
Hampshire PCT	1,204
Wiltshire PCT	1,200
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,200
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,198
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,183
Bedfordshire PCT	1,168
Mid Essex PCT	1,166

Notes:

1. Spend is based on the net operating costs reported in primary care trusts' (PCTs') audited summarisation schedules. This does not include all expenditure as the majority of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the NHS Business Services Authority rather than by PCTs.

2. The unweighted population figure used to calculate spend per head is the PCT responsible population using the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2007 population projection, adjusted using GP practice lists.

Organophosphates: Sheep Dipping

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the Zuckerman report, with particular reference to its analysis of the potential links between organophosphate sheep dips and long-term health problems. [244153]

Dawn Primarolo: The Zuckerman Report, released in 1951, pointed out the high acute toxicity of some organophosphates. This has long been recognised. There are vastly different potencies of compounds that have been used as pesticides, with less potent compounds replacing the early organophosphates. During the two decades after the release of the Zuckerman report, organophosphates with selective toxicity to insects and relatively low toxicity to mammals were developed and their use increased rapidly in the 1970s.

In 2007, the Government asked the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) for advice on the significance of Government-funded and other published research, which has investigated the link between the use of organophosphate sheep dips and chronic ill-health. The COT advice should be available in 2010.

Palliative Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the development of a national end-of-life care strategy; and if he will make a statement. [240901]

Phil Hope: The End of Life Care Strategy was published on 16 July 2008. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Palliative Care: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which the National Advanced Communication Skills Training Programme meets the needs of NHS staff working in end-of-life care; and if he will make a statement. [240904]

Phil Hope: As part of the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy, the national advanced communication skills training programme, developed initially for cancer services, will be piloted to determine whether it meets the work force development needs of staff working in end of life care services. We expect the pilot to have taken place by the end of 2009.

Primary Care Trusts: Population

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the use of workforce modelling as a means of reviewing and improving their approach to population models. [242725]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any guidance to primary care trusts on the use of work force modelling as a means of reviewing and improving their approach to population models.

Local organisations are responsible for work force planning in the national health service, as they are best placed to assess what is required to deliver the health care services that their local population require.

Through the NHS Next Stage Review, the Department has committed to establishing professional advisory boards and a Centre of Excellence to strengthen work force planning and strategy across the NHS. The professional advisory boards will provide advice and guidance to strengthen clinical input to work force planning at regional and national level. The Centre of Excellence will provide high quality intelligence and develop models and resources to support work force planning at all levels.

Primary Care Trusts: Working Hours

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* modelling of and *(b)* pilots for integrated out-of-hours care his Department has recently studied to inform the development of guidance to be issued to primary care trusts; [242724]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the integration of out-of-hours care and wider primary care. [242726]

Mr. Bradshaw: The configuration of services is a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients, local communities and other stakeholders.

We recognise that the NHS needs to improve integration between local services. The Primary and Community Care Strategy included a vision of integrated urgent care services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We are supporting the NHS to help them produce commissioning intentions that reflect this vision.

The National Quality Requirements in the Delivery of Out-of-Hours services state that out-of-hours providers must send details of all consultations (including appropriate clinical information) to the practice where the patient is registered by 8 am the next working day.

Public Consultation: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated by his Department to each local authority in Staffordshire for the hosting of local involvement networks in the last 12 months. [244061]

Ann Keen: The allocations for 2008-09 for local authorities in Staffordshire are: £0.301 million for Staffordshire and £0.163 million for Stoke-on-Trent.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of each sexually transmitted infection were confirmed in each month of the last four years. [243629]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed in a genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic are not currently available on a monthly basis. The latest annual data are published in "All new STI episodes seen at GUM clinics in the UK: 1998 to 2007", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

In addition to STIs diagnosed in a GUM clinic, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years of age in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003 when a phased implementation programme started. The following table shows the number of young people between the ages of 13 to 24 screened and diagnosed with Chlamydia each month between 1 April 2004 and 30 September 2008.

Month	*Total number of Chlamydia screens*	*Total number of confirmed Chlamydia positives*
April 2004	2,563	288
May 2004	2,870	329
June 2004	3,164	364
July 2004	3,853	400
August 2004	3,870	462
September 2004	4,996	591
October 2004	5,482	569
November 2004	7,418	722
December 2004	5,096	546
January 2005	6,961	739
February 2005	8,013	842
March 2005	9,018	952
April 2005	8,472	884
May 2005	8,269	818
June 2005	7,921	793
July 2005	7,178	753
August 2005	6,856	671
September 2005	8,618	900
October 2005	9,721	977
November 2005	12,987	1,150
December 2005	8,914	832
January 2006	10,793	1,032
February 2006	10,654	1,020
March 2006	12,335	1,173
April 2006	8,866	855
May 2006	11,338	1,048
June 2006	9,925	968
July 2006	10,168	1,072
August 2006	11,159	1,310
September 2006	12,894	1,256
October 2006	14,423	1,546
November 2006	16,553	1,568
December 2006	11,051	1,081
January 2007	18,286	1,805
February 2007	17,911	1,639
March 2007	20,987	1,855
April 2007	17,241	1,662
May 2007	20,941	1,930
June 2007	20,204	1,861
July 2007	20,695	1,996
August 2007	18,958	1,857
September 2007	25,238	2,199
October 2007	30,371	2,627
November 2007	36,726	2,924
December 2007	23,958	1,919
January 2008	37,868	3,167
February 2008	40,947	3,542
March 2008	44,357	3,391
April 2008	45,403	3,730
May 2008	42,002	3,373
June 2008	38,714	3,147
July 2008	39,793	3,321
August 2008	37,836	3,109
September 2008	50,014	4,224
Total	945,640	83,853

Notes:

1. Total number of screens includes all screens done through the NCSP irrespective of result. Therefore please note positivity cannot be calculated using these data presented since the denominator when calculating positivity is based on positive and negative screens only.
2. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for Chlamydia screens conducted within the NCSP outside of GUM clinics only.
3. The data presented include all screening tests done through the NCSP, and excludes diagnostic tests and tests of sexual contacts.
4. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens and not the number of patients screened.

Skin Piercing

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to adopt the Local Government Act 2003 byelaws for cosmetic body piercing. [244112]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has published guidance for local authorities (LAs) on the powers available in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) to regulate cosmetic piercing businesses in their area. A copy has been placed in the Library.

In response to feedback from LAs, the Department has also published a new single set of model byelaws covering tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Departmental officials provide advice to LAs on the introduction of byelaws regulating cosmetic piercing and have spoken on the subject at conferences run by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Institute of Licensing.

Smoking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have ceased smoking as a result of NHS smoking cessation measures in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last three years. [242381]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

Figures for the UK and by constituency are not collected. Data for England and for North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and associated primary care trusts (PCTs) are available for the years 2005-06 to 2007-8.

Information for 2007-08 is available from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to March 2008. This information can be found in table 3.5 on page 28. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information for 2006-07 is available for the old and new SHA and PCT breakdowns from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007. This information can be found in table 2.12 (old breakdown) and table 5.4 (new breakdown) on pages 18 and 65 respectively. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information for 2005-06 is available on the old PCT and SHA breakdown from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006. This information can be found in table 4.12 on page 37. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have ceased smoking following participation in NHS smoking cessation measures in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last three years. [243983]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. Smoking cessation data are available at primary care trust (PCT) level. West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts were formed on 1 October 2006. Data for these PCTs and their predecessor organisations are available for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Information on the number of successful quitters for 2007-08 is available from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to March 2008. This information can be found in table 3.5 on pages 28-30. Information on the number of successful quitters for 2006-07 is available from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007. This information can be found in table 2.12 and table 5.4 on pages 18-24 and 65-67 respectively. Information the number of successful quitters for 2005-06 is available from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006. This information can be found in table 4.12 on page 37-43. These publications have already been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged under 18 years who smoked in the most recent year for which figures are available. [242727]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

The latest information on the prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 to 19 in Great Britain in 2006 is available from the "General Household Survey 2006: Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006". This information can be found in Table 1.1 on page 15. This publication is already available in the Library.

The latest information available on the prevalence of smoking in England among adults aged 16 to 19 can be found in the "Statistics on Smoking: England, 2008" publication. The prevalence of smoking in 2006 in England can be found in table 2.1 on page 14. This publication has been placed in the Library.

The latest information available on the prevalence of smoking among children aged 11 to 15 can be found in the "Drug Use, Smoking and Drinking among Young People in England in 2007" publication. The prevalence of smoking in 2007 in England can be found in table 3.1 on page 116. Equivalent estimates of the number of regular smokers in 2007 among those aged 11 to 15 can be found on page 149, section 5.3. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Tobacco: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what penalties may be imposed upon those convicted for purchasing tobacco on behalf of those aged under 18 years; [242728]

(2) what budget has been allocated by his Department for the prevention of the purchase of tobacco on behalf of those under 18 years of age for the next 12 months; [242729]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to trading standards officers on preventing of tobacco being purchased on behalf of those under 18 years of age; [242730]

(4) what powers trading standards officers have as means to prevent the purchase of tobacco on behalf of those under 18 years of age; [242731]

(5) how many people have been convicted for purchasing tobacco on behalf of another person under the age of 18 since October 2007; [242790]

(6) how many people have *(a)* been cautioned and *(b)* received a fixed penalty notice for purchasing tobacco on behalf of another person under the age of 18 since October 2007. [242791]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no criminal offence of purchasing tobacco on behalf of someone under the age of 18.

WiFi: Health Hazards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the chairman of the Health Protection Agency on the possible health implications of the use of wireless technology; [243950]

(2) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects on health of the use of wireless technology. [243951]

Dawn Primarolo: Exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), are based on a comprehensive review of health effects of electromagnetic fields from sources including WiFi, mobile telephones and any wireless technology that emits radio signals. All these wireless devices are expected to comply with the ICNIRP exposure guidelines following the recommendations of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones, chaired by Professor Sir William Stewart who now holds the position of Chair of the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

The HPA issued the following advice in 2007:

> "There is no consistent evidence to date that WiFi and WLANs adversely affect the health of the general population. The signals are very low power, typically 0.1 watt (100 milliwatts) in both the computer and the router (access point) and the results so far show exposures are well within internationally accepted (ICNIRP) guidelines. Based on current knowledge and experience, radio frequency (RF) exposures from WiFi are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones."

The HPA is currently carrying out a systematic programme of exposure measurements from wireless local area networks (WLANs). Further information about this study and wireless technology more generally is available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/
HPAweb&Page&HPAwebContentAreaLanding/Page/
1153822623782

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 18 December 2008

WALES

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243560]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers.

Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243741]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not contribute to departmental parties or staff entertainment.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244026]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The recommendations from The Foresight Project: Mental Capital and Wellbeing, as they apply to Wales, fall to the Welsh Assembly government for consideration.

I understand that the Welsh Assembly welcomes this paper, as being in line with their public health and mental health policy agenda.

I am advised the paper has been circulated to the Welsh Assembly Government's mental health Task and Finish group for consideration and discussion.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243978]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office worked closely with Buckingham Palace and the Welsh Assembly government on plans to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Golden jubilee in 2002 and looks forward to being similarly involved to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

TREASURY

Small Businesses

7. **Clive Efford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on small businesses of the measures announced in the pre-Budget report. [244637]

Angela Eagle: The PBR announced new facilities for over £2 billion additional support for SMEs in accessing credit, more generous loss relief, a new HMRC support service, and deferral of the increase in the small companies rate of corporation tax.

This is worth £1 billion of tax cuts, £2 billion in loan guarantees, along with £4 billion of European money—£7 billion in total.

Since PBR HMRC's new support service has helped 6,250 businesses spread around £110 million worth of tax payments.

10. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the measures to assist small businesses announced in the pre-Budget report. [244640]

Angela Eagle: The PBR announced new facilities for over £2 billion additional support for SMEs in accessing credit, more generous loss relief, a new HMRC support service, and deferral of the increase in the small companies rate of corporation tax.

This is worth £1 billion of tax cuts, £2 billion in loan guarantees, along with £4 billion of European money—£7 billion in total.

Since PBR HMRC's new support service has helped 6,250 businesses spread around £110 million worth of tax payments.

17. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase the supply of credit to small businesses. [244649]

Ian Pearson: In addition to the establishment of the Lending Panel, the Government also announced at PBR 2008 a package to assist small and medium enterprises facing credit constraints.

This package included the establishment of the Small Business Finance Scheme, a Export Credits Guarantee Department scheme, and a number of other actions. When combined this package will facilitate over £2 billion of extra support to SME's experiencing short-term financial difficulties.

18. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on small businesses of the measures announced in the pre-Budget report. [244650]

Angela Eagle: The PBR announced new facilities for over £2 billion additional support for SMEs in accessing credit, more generous loss relief, a new HMRC support service, and deferral of the increase in the small companies rate of corporation tax.

This is worth £1 billion of tax cuts, £2 billion in loan guarantees, along with £4 billion of European money—£7 billion in total.

Since PBR HMRC's new support service has helped 6,250 businesses spread around £110 million worth of tax payments.

Government Finance

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the £5 billion additional value for money savings announced in the pre-Budget report are net of the cost of delivery. [244642]

Yvette Cooper: The pr-Budget report sets out plans for the net savings of £5 billion.

20. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the levels of Government borrowing and debt; and if he will make a statement. [244652]

Yvette Cooper: Table B3 of the 2008 pre-Budget report sets out the Chancellor's projections for the level of Government borrowing and debt. The Government's will continue to support the economy through these difficult times. Over the medium-term, the Government's fiscal policy objective remains ensuring the sustainability of the public finances, in order to protect stability, employment and growth.

Global Fiscal Stimulus

13. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on the potential for and practicality of delivering a global fiscal stimulus. [244644]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor has had discussions with many international colleagues, including G20 and European finance ministers. The case for concerted fiscal action was endorsed by the leaders of the G20 on 15 November, and by European leaders on 12 December and many countries around the world have already implemented a fiscal stimulus.

Banks: Liquidity

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the operation of aspects of the pre-Budget report dealing [illegible] liquidity for banks. [244645]

Ian Pearson: The tripartite authorities are continually assessing the operation of measures targeted at improving liquidity in the financial system. The Bank of England's liquidity operations, including the Special Liquidity Scheme have been operating as intended.

Value Added Tax

15. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings that will be made by a person earning *(a)* £200,000 per annum and *(b)* £20,000 per annum as a result of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. [244646]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made because such savings are more dependent on spending patterns, which vary widely, rather than on earnings.

16. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he gave to increasing the rate of value added tax above 17.5 per cent. prior to his statement on the pre-Budget report. [244647]

Mr. Timms: As both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have already said in this House, a large number of options on just about every aspect of tax and spending were considered in the run-up to the pre-Budget report. The Chancellor announced that while VAT would comedown to 15 per cent., it would return to 17.5 per cent. at the end of 2009.

Personal Debt

19. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of personal debt at the beginning of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [244651]

Ian Pearson: The Office for National Statistics publishes data on levels of personal debt. The Government do not publish forecasts for personal debt.

Housing

21. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking as part of his fiscal stimulus package to support local authorities in their spending on housing. [244653]

Angela Eagle: The fiscal stimulus package included £250 million for Decent Home improvements and £175 million for major repairs to council housing in England.

Bank Services: Small Businesses

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of lending by the banking sector to small-and-medium-sized enterprises. [244643]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor announced at pre-Budget report 2008 that the Government are establishing a Lending Panel, bringing together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups to monitor lending to both households and businesses. The new panel is monitoring lending, and will encourage and drive up best practice in lending decisions and treatment of borrowers.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* Iceland and *(b)* Guernsey on Landsbanki Guernsey; [242234]

(2) what meetings he or his officials *(a)* have had and *(b)* plan to have with representatives of the depositors of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man; [242236]

(3) what meetings he or his officials *(a)* have had and *(b)* plan to have with representatives of the depositors of Landbanski Guernsey; [242237]

(4) what responsibilities he has to represent the Isle of Man government in its discussions with the Icelandic government on Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man; what his remit for such discussions is; and if he will make a statement; [242242]

(5) what responsibilities he has to represent the Guernsey government in its discussions with the Icelandic government on Landsbanki; what his remit for such discussions is in respect of Landsbanki Guernsey; and if he will make a statement; [242243]

(6) what discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* Iceland and *(b)* the Isle of Man on Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man. [242244]

Ian Pearson: Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man and Guernsey are a matter for the Governments of the Isle of Man and Guernsey. Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to meet representatives from the Government of Isle of Man to discuss the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander banking collapse in the next two months. [240818]

Ian Pearson: Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on banks: pay, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the letters sent by the Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority to the chief executives of major banks and building societies on 13 October 2008. [242318]

Ian Pearson: The letter sent by the chief executive of the Financial Services Authority to chief executive officers on 13 October 2008 has been published by the Financial Services Authority. It is accessible at:

www.fsa.gov.uk

Banks: Regulation

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms there are to protect depositors in UK banks and building societies whose accounts are transferred to financial institutions outside UK jurisdiction without their consent. [244995]

Ian Pearson: Accounts with banks or building societies in the UK would normally only be transferred to another authorised person able to accept deposits in the UK. The depositors would then be protected by the UK Financial Services Compensation Scheme or the deposit-guarantee scheme of an EEA credit institution's home state.

Credit Rating: EU Action

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on the proposals on the registration of credit rating agencies set out in the draft EU Directive on Credit Rating Agencies. [244307]

Ian Pearson: The Government support registration of credit rating agencies. The Commission's proposals are now being discussed in council working groups.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240992]

Angela Eagle: In fulfilment of the duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty the Treasury will publish a report, in 2009, when it publishes its Single Equality Scheme. The Single Equality Scheme will amalgamate the Treasury's three current equality schemes on (race, disability and gender).

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244384]

Angela Eagle: Both temporary and permanent staff are placed on the appropriate pay band for their grade. The same bands apply equally to permanent and temporary staff.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on which dates the *(a)* Chief Secretary to the Treasury, *(b)* Financial Secretary to the Treasury, *(c)* Minister of State at the Treasury, *(d)* Economic Secretary to the Treasury, *(e)* Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and *(f)* the Financial Services Secretary (A) last met the President of the European Commission and (B) spoke to the President of the European Commission; and whether the UK's prospective membership of the Euro was discussed on each occasion; [242304]

(2) when Treasury officials last discussed Britain's prospective membership of the Euro with the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [242305]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in other countries, as well as the European Commission. The Government's policy on membership of the single currency is unchanged. It remains as set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the Chancellor's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects the United Kingdom to meet the Maastricht criteria for membership of the Euro in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [242770]

Ian Pearson: The latest Government forecasts for the economy and the public finances were published in the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on possible UK membership of the European single currency in the last two years. [243002]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in other countries, as well as the European Commission. The Government's policy on membership of the single currency in unchanged. It remains as set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the Chancellor's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his colleagues in the Eurozone on membership of the single currency. [244664]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 25 November, *Official Report*, column 1325W.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much duty on *(a)* beer, *(b)* wine and *(c)* spirits changed in percentage terms in each year since 1997. [242874]

Angela Eagle: Rates of alcohol duty since 1995 are published on the UK Trade Information website:

www.uktradeinfo.com.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to adjust the rate of vehicle mileage allowances in line with fuel prices. [244808]

Angela Eagle: Decisions on approved mileage allowance payments (AMAPs) rates are taken as part of the Budget and pre-Budget report processes.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget of the Financial Inclusion Fund is in the 2008-09 and the each of the next three financial years. [242126]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Inclusion Fund is worth £130 million in 2008-11. The allocations over this time are:

	£ million *Financial inclusion fund allocation*
2008-09	42.996
2009-10	43.457
2010-11	43.547
Total	130

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tonnes of gold have been sold from UK reserves in each year since May 1997; what revenue was received from sales in each year; and if he will estimate the revenue which each sale would have generated at current gold prices. [244303]

Ian Pearson: 395 tonnes of gold have been sold since 1997: 75 tonnes in 1999; 150 tonnes in 2000; 130 tonnes in 2001; and 40 tonnes in 2002. The date of, the amount of gold sold and the allotment price at each of the 17 gold auctions is set out in the following table.

The total proceeds from the sales were around US$3.5 billion. At the morning fix on 15 December 2008 the total value of this gold was US$10.5 billion. The gold sales between July 1999 and March 2002 reflected a prudent decision to reduce over-exposure to a single asset in the net reserves portfolio.

Date	*Amount sold (ounces)*	*Allotment price ($/ounce)*
6 July 1999	804,000	261.20
21 September 1999	804,000	255.75
29 November 1999	804,000	293.50
25 January 2000	804,400	289.50
21 March 2000	804,400	285.25
23 May 2000	803,600	275.25
12 July 2000	804,000	279.75
19 September 2000	803,600	270.60
7 November 2000	803,600	264.30
23 January 2001	803,600	268.00
14 March 2001	803,600	266.00
15 May 2001	644,400	268.00
11 July 2001	643,600	267.25
12 September 2001	644,400	280.00
27 November 2001	644,400	273.50
16 January 2002	643,600	283.50
5 March 2002	644,400	296.50

Date	Amount sold (ounces)	Allotment price ($/ounce)
Total sold/average price	12,707,600	274.95

Income Tax

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and the marginal rate of income tax is for each man who is a single earner with a wife and two children with earnings of (i) £10,000 a year and (ii) within each £5,000 band above £10,000 up to £200,000; how many such persons are in each income band announced in the Pre-Budget Report 2008; and how much such a person in each income band will have (A) as additional income and (B) to pay in tax and duties as a consequence of the measures. [241139]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Income tax liabilities by income band for 2008-09 are provided in HM Revenue and Customs Statistics Table 2.5:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-5.pdf.

The effect of tax measures announced in the PBR by income band is provided in the Government's response to the Treasury Select Committee's Thirteenth Report for 2007-08, 'Budget measures and Low Income Households', available at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtreasy.htm.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual taxpayers affected by the withdrawal of the 10 pence starting rate for income tax will pay more income tax than they did before the withdrawal of the rate when the steps announced in *(a)* Budgets 2007 and 2008, *(b)* the Chancellor's statement dated 13 May, on income tax and *(c)* the Pre-Budget Report 2008 are taken into account. [242857]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The personal tax measures announced by the Chancellor in the 2008 pre-Budget report will permanently reduce the number of households paying more net tax as a result of the Budget 2007 direct tax and benefit changes from 5.3 million originally to 500,000 in 2011-12. The 13 May increase in personal allowances for this year reduced the number of households paying more net tax from these changes to 1.1 million in 2008-09.

The Government's response to the Treasury Committee's report 'Budget Measures and Low Income Households' available at

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtreasy.htm

explained in answer to recommendation 9, and at the start of Annexes A and B, why it is not possible to provide individual analysis of the Budget 2007 direct tax and benefit changes.

Interest Rates

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his comments of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 856, in the debate on the Queen's Speech, when the Bank of England base rate was last at 17 per cent. [244983]

Ian Pearson: Historical data on bank rates are available from the Bank of England's website.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 31 October 2008, on savings (PO reference: 1/62564/2008); [241383]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 28 October 2008 on financial protection for individuals invested in the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander; [242432]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 October 2008 on the Icelandic bank, Kaupthing Edge (PO Ref: 1/62030/2008). [242433]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Secretary very much regrets not being in a position to reply to the hon. Member and will do so as soon as possible.

Mortgages

Anne Moffat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the services to mortgage holders being offered by banks recapitalised with public funds. [240278]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October this year, the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

These include agreements to make available affordable products during this period of global turbulence in financial markets, help individuals struggling with their mortgage payments stay in their homes and support the expansion of financial capability initiatives.

UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), an arm's length company, will oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund.

Paymaster-General: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster-General plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 24 September 2008 sent on behalf of Asghar Khan, a constituent. [242262]

Ian Pearson: The right hon. Lady's letter was addressed to the Paymaster General at the Cabinet Office. The Treasury has obtained a copy of the letter from the right hon. Lady's office and a Treasury Minister will write to her about this matter as soon as possible.

Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which Government departments will be exempt from the allocation of the £5 billion of additional recoverable savings under the increased cross-Government value for money target for 2010-11, referred to in paragraph 6.32, page 122 of the Pre-Budget Report 2008; [244423]

(2) by what criteria the £5 billion of additional recoverable savings under the increased cross-Government value for money target for 2010-11, referred to in paragraph 6.32, page 122 of the Pre-Budget Report 2008, will be allocated. [244424]

Yvette Cooper: HM Treasury will work with Departments between now and Budget 2009 to agree the departmental allocation of the additional £5 billion value for money target announced in the pre-Budget report.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the factual paper on the Barnett Formula was not laid before Parliament in accordance with the timetable originally planned. [244596]

Yvette Cooper *[holding 17 December 2008]:* No decision has been made yet on the date of publication of the factual paper on the Barnett formula.

Public Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide a breakdown by principal policy decision of the increase in cyclically adjusted net borrowing by 4.3 per cent. of gross domestic product from the estimated outturn in 2007-08 to the estimate in 2009-10, as shown in the Pre-Budget Report table B4. [243507]

Yvette Cooper: The estimated cost of all policy decisions announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report can be found on Table B5 of Annexe B (p 194).

Public Sector Debt

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes there have been in projections of *(a)* gross public debt on a Maastricht treaty basis and *(b)* net public debt since the pre-Budget report projections resulting from (i) the use of automatic stabilisers, (ii) policy changes announced in the pre-Budget report and (iii) other causes. [244984]

Yvette Cooper: Projections for gross public debt on a Maastricht treaty basis and public sector net debt can be found in Table B10 in £ billion, and Table B11 as a percentage of GDP of the 2008 pre-Budget report.

The costs of policy changes announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report can be found in Table B5 in £ million. The effects of automatic stabilisers are shown in Chart 2.3 of the 2008 pre-Budget report.

In line with previous practice, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide an update on the public finances at Budget 2009.

Tax Avoidance

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations HM Revenue and Customs has received on the resources required to combat tax avoidance by major corporations. [244648]

Mr. Timms: The Department receives representations on a wide range of subjects.

As recommended by the Varney Review of Links with Large Business published in November 2006, the Department takes a risk-based approach to its largest customers, focusing resources on issues and businesses which are judged to be of higher risk.

The Department continues to monitor its assessments to ensure that sufficient resources are focused on the most important and difficult risks.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a full copy of the advice produced by the Civil Service for Ministers dated 22 May 1997 on consideration of options - company taxation that was released in part by his Department on 30 March 2007. [241758]

Ian Pearson: The advice produced by officials to Ministers, dated 22 May 1997, was released by HM Treasury on 30 March 2007, in full response to a freedom of information (FOI) request. A subsequent parliamentary debate ensured that the matter received full consideration.

Taxation: Hotels

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to announce a decision on the value added tax liability of unitised hotel projects following his review of the matter. [244697]

Mr. Timms: Officials are looking into the VAT treatment of various hotel investment schemes with a view to providing clarity and certainty for the parties involved. The arrangements are complex, they are not identical in nature, and this has required detailed analysis on the part of HM Revenue and Customs. Officials will be communicating their conclusions to hotel management companies and investors early in the new year.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the qualification period for the Business Payment Support Service to the third quarter of 2008. [243137]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Business Payment Support Service will help businesses in temporary financial difficulties, as a result of the current economic conditions, spread their tax payments over a timetable they can afford. There is no qualification period for the service. If HM Revenue and Customs has already contacted a business about an overdue payment or if they already have a payment arrangement with the Department, they should call the office which originally contacted them.

VAT: Small Businesses

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have applied to defer their VAT payments in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such applications have been granted. [244066]

Mr. Timms: I am able to provide data on cases handled by the new Business Payment Support Service. The information requested is not available for HMRC as a whole.

As part of a substantial package of support the Chancellor announced in PBR that HMRC had introduced a new Business Payment Support Service. Businesses in temporary financial difficulty will be offered a fast and streamlined service for arranging to pay their HMRC tax bill to a timetable they can afford.

The service has been up and running for just under three weeks. To 11 December, the service has taken over 15,000 calls and agreed over 6,200 time to pay arrangements worth over £108 million. Almost 60 per cent. of the cases relate to businesses being granted time to pay VAT debts worth over £71 million.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of administering the temporary change to the rate of value added tax announced in the pre-Budget report. [244976]

Mr. Timms: The impact assessment for the temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT can be found on the HM Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_vat_1845.pdf.

This contains the small firms impact test.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General what databases the Law Officers' Departments *(a)* own and *(b)* maintain. [242227]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has a 10 year Public Finance Initiative Partnership with LogicaCMG to modernise information technology within the Service. This is known as the COMPASS Programme.

The contract with LogicaCMG covers the provision, support and maintenance of the hardware and software applications used by the CPS. This includes: the case management databases; the COMPASS Case Management System; the Management Information System; the Witness Management System; and the Payroll, Graduated Counsel Fee Scheme and the Corporate Information Systems. The corporate databases provided by suppliers outside of the COMPASS contract are the Finance and Human Resources databases.

The other databases in use by small numbers of HQ users are:

Database	*Use*
Respond	To track correspondence
CPS Direct Rota	To rota CPS Direct crown prosecutor coverage
Teleware	Call distribution system for CPS Direct
Gateway 2000	Document numbering system for distributing documents nationally
Unicorn	Online library loans system
Druid	Record of archived cases requiring review
ReMS	Storage details of long-term interest cases
FMBC Tracker	Facilities Management Business Centre (FMBC) database to plan and track progress of building maintenance
MAB	FMBC management of Area budgets database to monitor area building maintenance costs
FMBC Project	FMBC database used by regional project managers to track facilities management projects
STC Navigator	To analyse energy usage

The suite of desktop applications provided to all users through the COMPASS contract includes Microsoft Access database software for the development of databases for individual use.

The CPS owns the data contained within its databases.

The following table shows the databases *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by the Serious Fraud Office:

Database	*Description*
Docman	Document management system holding scanned evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).
DCS2	Document management system holding descriptions of evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).
Introspect	Document management system holding scanned evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).
Alphascan	Document management system holding scanned evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).
DBTextworks	Document management system holding evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).
Valid Archive	Document management system holding evidence that forms part of SFO cases (also cases closed and pending).

Database	*Description*
Registry Database	Database used to register files across the organisation.
Case Tracking	Database containing summary information of all SFO cases, past and present.
Section 2 Register	List of all Section 2 Notices.
Efin	Database used to process Purchase Ledger and General Ledger transactions for the SFO.
TRENT	List of staff (permanent, temporary and leavers) and all related personal details.
Infobasis	Database containing information about staff training (please note that this system is not fully operational yet).
Task Management System	List of tasks related to each case and their allocation to case team members (not used on every case).
Adlib	Database containing information about all books in the library catalogue.
Access Control Database	Facilitates access to all areas of the SFO.
Electronic Visitor System	Facilitates access to visitors to all areas of the SFO.
Analyst Notebook	Investigation tool used to help visualise transactions.
Healthwise	Health and Safety and Risk Assessment Training.
Casewise	Planning tool used by Case Management Reform.
Touchpaper	Records details of IT help desk calls and inventory.
LanDesk	Hardware inventory and management.
ActiveXperts	Server monitoring.
Norad Surveillance	Database monitoring.
Rightfax	Faxes.
ArcServe	Backup and restore management.
Active Directory	User management.
Ms Exchange	E-mails.
Websense	Internet activity monitor.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department:

(a) Owns the following databases:

Database name	*Function*	*Database management system*
High profile case list	High Profile case List	MySQL
ODQ Subset of Datix	Reporting tool for time recording and billing	MySQL
BVFAIS	Legacy data from FAIS (the old Bona Vacantia database) to be kept for 40 Years	MySQL
Client Database	Client Information	MySQL
European Database	Judgments and Observations about European matters	MySQL
IJRT	Immigration Judicial review team	MS Access
Costs	Manage costs distribution	MS Access
Paperroom database	Tracks physical files	MS Access
GPL database	Ex GPL (Government Property Lawyers) data Very old Datix	MySQL

(b) Maintains the following databases:

SQL Server Database Management system

System	*Function*	*Version*
Password Safe	Electronic Password Maintenance	2000 Enterprise Edition SP4
Archive Manager	Back Up and Security facility for email	2005 Enterprise Edition RTM
TrackIt	Helpdesk	2005 Enterprise Edition RTM
BigFix	Software distribution management	2005 Standard Edition SP2
QFM	Facilities Management	2000 Standard Edition RTM
QTP	Test software	2000 Enterprise Edition RTM
CommVault	Backup	2005 Express Edition
E-Policy Orchestrator	Security management	MSDE
iPatch Manager	Secure Patch management	MSDE
Infra	New Service Desk	2005 Enterprise Edition RTM
ForeFront	Network security	2005 Standard Edition SP2
System Centre Configuration Manager	Microsoft control centre	2005 Standard Edition SP2 and SP1
Stream	Risk Management software	2005 Standard Edition SP2
Image Deployment Server	Media Distribution	MSDE
SharePoint	File and information repository	2005 Enterprise Edition SP1
SecureWave	PC security	2005 Standard Edition SP2
VMWare Virtual Centre	Virtualisation control	2000 Personal Edition SP4
HP Jet Admin	Printer management	2005 Express Edition
Monitoring Server	Network traffic monitoring	2005 Workgroup Edition SP1
Vantage	Network Checking	2005 Standard Edition SP1

Oracle Database Management system

System	*Function*	*Version*
E-Financials	Accounting	Oracle 8i, 81, 10gRAC
R/KYV	Document management	Oracle 10g
Carpe Diem Litigation and European	Time recording	Oracle 9i, 10g
Grid Control	Infrastructure management	Oracle 10g

Informix Database Management system

System	*Function*	*Version*
Datix	Billing	Informix IDS 7.31
Tsolacd	Automated Call Distribution	Informix IDS 10

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office owns, and is responsible for maintaining, the data held on each of the databases detailed as follows, although the administration may be outsourced to a third party.

1. SOLAR—case management database
2. SUMMATION—document storage
3. CASESTAT—summary of case data
4. HERMES—HR information
5. E-Financials—Financial
6. PEOPLEFINDER—Internal directory

HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has no databases which it maintains.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff in the Law Officers' Departments undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242131]

The Solicitor-General: The table for the Crown Prosecution Service is as follows:

Qualification Type	*Pay Band A1*	*Pay Band A2*	*Pay Band B1*	*Pay Band B2*	*Pay Band B3*	*Pay Band C1*	*Pay Band C2*	*Pay Band C3*	*Pay Band C4*	*Pay Band D*	*Pay Band E*	*Pay Band SCS*
Undergraduate Degree	8	23	27	19	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma	5	27	32	30	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Masters Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
MBA Degree	Nil											
PHD Degree	Nil											

The table for the Serious Fraud Office is as follows:

Qualification Type	*Pay Band EO*	*Pay Band HEO*	*Pay Band SEO*
Undergraduate Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil
Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma	8	1	3
Masters Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil
MBA Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil
PHD Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil

The table for the Revenue Customs and Prosecutions Office is as follows:

Qualification Type	*Pay Band AO*	*Pay Band EO*	*Pay Band HEO*	*Pay Band SEO*
Undergraduate Degree	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma	1	13	1	Nil
Masters Degree	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
MBA Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
PHD Degree	Nil			

The table for the Treasury Solicitor's Department is as follows:

Qualification Type	*Pay Band AO*	*Pay Band PS*	*Pay Band EO*	*Pay Band HEO*	*Pay Band SEO*	*Pay Band 7*
Undergraduate Degree	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Postgraduate Degree/ Diploma	6	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Masters Degree	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
MBA Degree	Nil					
PHD Degree	Nil					

Two members of staff have been funded by HMCPSI for an MBA degree in the last 12 months. They are both Grade 7.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* computers in the offices of their (i) Ministers and (ii) communications officials. [241966]

The Solicitor-General: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Law Officers' Department's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 984-86W, on Law Officers' Department: temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242310]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally by any of the Law Officer's Departments. Therefore it could be obtained only by the extraction of every contract for each temporary member of staff employed over the last five years and would incur disproportionate cost.

Proceeds of Crime: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General what consideration the Crown Prosecution Service gave to including reference to the use of civil recovery powers in its Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Chief Police Officers on pursuing criminal assets. [243799]

The Solicitor-General: A service level agreement (SLA) between the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), dealing with applications under the Proceeds of Crime Act, was signed in November 2002 and predates the granting of civil recovery powers to the CPS.

Existing referral processes from CPS staff to headquarters do not require any amendment to the SLA. In the event that police investigators are trained to undertake free standing civil recovery investigations, the SLA will have to be revisited.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps have been taken to facilitate the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service, *(b)* the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, *(c)* the Serious Fraud Office and *(d)* the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office discharging new responsibilities for civil recovery action; what funding has been provided to each to reflect these new responsibilities; and how many (i) lawyers and (ii) investigations have been employed by each to discharge such functions. [243919]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(a) The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff across all 42 CPS areas have been asked to refer potential civil recovery cases to the Proceeds of Crime Delivery Unit in CPS headquarters for consideration. Cases to be dealt with by the CPS are passed to the Central Confiscation Unit of the Organised Crime Division, which currently undertakes asset recovery and other civil work in the High Court, and has been given responsibility for civil recovery actions. Other cases are passed to the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

No additional funding has been provided to the CPS to reflect these new responsibilities. However, the Home Office Recovered Assets Incentive Scheme has been amended to enable the CPS to benefit in respect of successful civil recovery actions.

No additional lawyers or investigators have yet been specifically recruited by the CPS to undertake civil recovery work.

(b) The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) has been in discussion with SOCA to develop a memorandum of understanding to provide advice and assistance between the PPS and SOCA including arrangements to deal with civil recovery cases. In the short term, SOCA is responsible for civil recovery. The PPS remains responsible for criminal confiscation following conviction.

To date, no new funding has been provided. No additional lawyers have been recruited to discharge these functions. There have been no investigations in Northern Ireland conducted by the PPS.

(c) The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) recently completed an in-depth review of its approach to all aspects of proceeds of crime activity. This review resulted in a number of recommendations to the director, who has since formed a dedicated Proceeds of Crime Team. The structure of this team is being finalised, with resources being drawn from across the organisation. The team will be fully operational by April 2009.

The team will be responsible for conducting civil recovery investigations in suitable cases. Once the team has achieved accreditation through the National Policing Improvement Agency, they will have the necessary investigative powers to conduct civil recovery investigations under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. At present, there are no resources dedicated to civil recovery investigations within the SFO.

The civil recovery settlement with Balfour Beatty plc. in October this year, which brought in £2.5 million for the Government, approximately £1 million has been made available to the SFO to be invested in asset recovery work. No additional funding has been provided to the SFO in respect of civil recovery work and the team is being funded through the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme.

(d) To date, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office have not instituted any civil recovery proceedings. No additional funding has been allocated for this work and any such activity would be funded from existing resources.

No staff have been specifically employed to discharge these particular responsibilities.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many of the *(a)* investigators and *(b)* lawyers employed by the (i) Crown Prosecution Service, (ii) the Public Prosecution Office in Northern Ireland, (iii) the Serious Fraud Office and (iv) the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office have received specific training in civil recovery investigations and litigation in the first six months of this financial year; how many civil recovery investigations were commenced by each agency in that period; in how many such cases assets have been restrained; and what the value of such assets is. [243920]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(i) The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not employ any investigators for civil recovery work. Two senior lawyers have been involved in preparing the CPS for the application of these new powers.

The CPS has considered three potential civil recovery cases since April. Two were considered not suitable for civil recovery and one is now being taken forward abroad through mutual legal assistance.

(ii) No training in civil recovery matters has been delivered during the first six months of the financial year.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) have not commenced any civil recovery investigations during this period and consequently no assets have been restrained by PPS.

(iii) Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigators and lawyers attend seminars and conferences on civil recovery as part of their continuing professional development.

The SFO has not commenced any civil recovery investigations within the specified period. The first civil recovery settlement was reached with Balfour Beatty plc. in October this year. No assets were restrained in this case.

(iv) Five lawyers within Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office's (RCPO) asset forfeiture division attended training on confiscation and civil recovery in June 2008.

RCPO has not instituted any civil recovery investigations in this financial year, therefore no assets have been restrained on this basis.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans the Serious Fraud Office has for action in civil recovery; and when she expects these to be implemented. [243928]

The Solicitor-General: The Director of the Serious Fraud Office has encouraged all staff to consider the full range of prosecutorial tools when assessing the appropriate disposal of a case, including civil recovery orders.

The Law Officers' Departments will continue working closely together to consider and develop appropriate policy guidance for use of these orders over the next year.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General what budget allocation has been made for civil recovery work in the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [243929]

The Solicitor-General: In RCPO no budget allocation has been made for civil recovery work for either 2008-09 or 2009-10. Funding is to be provided from our existing resources.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Solicitor-General what arrangements have been put in place in the Crown Prosecution Service to enable the Service to discharge its newly acquired responsibilities for civil recovery; when arrangements will be implemented; and what budget has been allocated for civil recovery work in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [243930]

The Solicitor-General: Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff across all 42 CPS areas have been asked to refer all potential civil recovery cases to the Proceeds of Crime Delivery Unit (POCDU) within CPS headquarters for consideration. POCDU considers a number of routes for potential civil recovery cases. Where the case meets the legal requirements for civil recovery and appears viable, it will either be referred to the Central Confiscation Unit within CPS headquarters or to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). SOCA has agreed to consider civil recovery referrals from the CPS for a period of three years on the same basis as the former Assets Recovery Agency (ARA).

No discrete budget has been allocated for civil recovery work either across CPS areas, or within the Central Confiscation Unit. Civil recovery has been mainstreamed alongside other asset recovery work. No funding has been provided to the CPS for 2008-09 or 2009-10, however, the Home Office Recovered Assets Incentive Scheme has been amended to enable the CPS to benefit in respect of successful civil recovery actions.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Computing for Labour

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 72WS, correcting the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1129W, (1) whether hon. Members from parties other than the Labour Party are able to subscribe to Computing for Labour's services under the terms of its agreement with the House authorities; [244909]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the original calculation of expenditure on Computing for Labour; [244965]

(3) what representations her Office received from *(a)* the Labour Party and *(b)* Computing for Labour following the publication of the original answer; [244970]

(4) if she will publish the individual expenditure by each hon. Member on payments to Computing for Labour in 2007-08. [244971]

Chris Bryant: The House authorities have no agreement with Computing for Labour to provide services to Members of Parliament. Hon. Members subscribe independently to Computing for Labour (CFL) for various services related to their duties as Members of Parliament. They are able to claim for such costs against their parliamentary allowances where they relate to parliamentary duties.

The amounts paid to CFL are for subscriptions for software that is used for Members' parliamentary duties dealing with correspondence from constituents and other casework. As I outlined in the written ministerial statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 72WS, Members typically claim for an annual membership of £50. Most other claims are for £100 for the caseworker casework management system; £199 for related training; and £235 a year for relevant IT support via a support line.

It is entirely a matter for Computing for Labour whether it is prepared to accept commissions from hon. Members who are not members of the Labour Party.

The answer of 11 November 2008 was incorrect because the information was incorrectly provided by the Department of Resources, which inadvertently added data from an incorrect account code in the course of extracting and collating expenditure data from the House financial system. The Leader received no representations from the Labour party or from CFL following the publication of the original incorrect answer. As soon as the Department of Resources spotted the mistake the Member for Horsham's office were notified.

In 2007-08, 228 hon. Members paid a total of £61,188 to Computing for Labour through the House of Commons. Other Members may have met costs directly and claimed reimbursement. The sums involved in the latter circumstance are not available.

It is not the House's practice to disclose specific details of individual Members' expenditure.

Right of Search

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House whether she was informed by the Serjeant-at-Arms that the police who searched the Parliamentary Office of the hon. Member for Ashford on 27 November 2008 did not have a search warrant. [243582]

Ms Harman: I had no knowledge of the search before it took place, nor the processes under which the search was carried out.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make a statement on the right of search of parliamentary premises. [244157]

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make a statement on the right of search of parliamentary premises. [244158]

Ms Harman: Access to the offices of hon. Members is not a matter for the Leader of the House. However the matter is covered in Mr. Speaker's protocol sent to individual hon. Members on 8 December 2008. The House has decided to set up a Committee to review this matter.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations were involved with the branding for the Creativity and Business International Network; and how much was paid to each organisation. [242430]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: Edelman—which is employed by the Department to support the Creativity and Business International Network—engaged the services of ML-N to create the c&binet brand.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence, Departments should abide by the guidance as set out in "Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies" which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005.

In respect of all other correspondence, we are unable to provide the information within the disproportionate cost limit (£750) as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been in each year since 1997-98. [244037]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of the provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers was as follows. The cost for years prior to 2006-07 is not available.

£

	Special advisers	*Press officers*
2007-08	41,249	72,284
2006-07	41,795	73,240

Costs include rent, business rates, service charges, utilities, maintenance and accommodation management charges.

Football Association

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide support to the Football Association for its Respect campaign; and if he will make a statement. [244104]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Football is one of the most high profile sports in the world and footballers are not just sportsmen and women, they are role models for young people.

While passion must remain at the heart of the game, it is also crucial that players, coaches, officials and spectators respect each other. I have therefore already publicly supported The Football Association's Respect campaign.

I will continue to encourage an on-going commitment to change at all levels of sport, and I am grateful to the FA for leading the way.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he plans to have with the Football Association on the implementation of the remaining conclusions of the Burns Review; and if he will make a statement. [244323]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: The Government continue to work closely with the Football Association (FA) on a number of important issues within the game including governance and regulation.

Many of Lord Burns' independent review recommendations designed to reform the FA's decision-making structure in order to make it a more modern, effective and representative governing body for football have been implemented by the FA, and I will continue to regularly discuss progress.

As part of the monitoring process of that report, the FA will review the changes they have put in place at Council, Board and Football Regulatory Authority level by 2012.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244014]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department was pleased to read the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for DCMS policy on the impacts of engaging with culture and sport and the Department will report on this in due course.

Welcome to Britain Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when representatives of the Welcome to Britain Group last met *(a)* the Public Diplomacy Partners Group and *(b)* the Public Diplomacy Board; [242567]

(2) how many VisitBritain staff work on the Welcome to Britain Group; [242589]

(3) on what dates the Welcome to Britain Group has met; and when the group next plans to meet; [242517]

(4) on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have met the Welcome to Britain Group in the last 12 months. [242902]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: VisitBritain (VB) have advised that the Welcome to Britain Steering Group (WTBSG) have held quarterly meetings over the last 18 months and will meet again in February 2009. WTBSG last met on 1 December 2008. Members of the Public Diplomacy Partners Group (PDPG) attend these meetings. However, lead responsibility for the PDPG will shortly be passing to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

VisitBritain provide Welcome to Britain with one full-time head of project, one full-time manager and a small internal working group of between six to eight staff who meet bimonthly. VisitBritain is currently chair of the WTBSG.

The WTB initiative is an integral part of the DCMS 2012 tourism strategy and as such is fully integrated within that. Although no meetings with Ministers have taken place, the most recent meeting with the Tourism Ministerial Advisory Group was on 28 October 2008 at the House of Commons.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions took place *(a)* between his Department and CDC in 2005 and 2007 and *(b)* with the Treasury in 2007, regarding the possibility of extracting resources from CDC, as referred to on page 15 of the National Audit Office Report, Investing for Development: DFID's oversight of CDC Group Plc, HC (2008-09) 18. [243009]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No discussions took place between DFID and CDC in 2005 regarding the possibility of extracting resources from CDC.

During 2007 DFID had preliminary discussions with both CDC and the Treasury regarding the possibility of extracting resources from CDC in the shape of a dividend. These discussions took place within the context of the wider discussion around CDC's strategic direction. This contributed to the development of CDC's new investment policy, about which I made a written ministerial statement on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS.

Chad: United Nations

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations the Government have made to the UN in respect of the setting up of the UN Police Training and Advisory Mission MINURCAT 2 in Chad. [243199]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has been in regular contact with the United Nations (UN) authorities on this issue. UN Security Council discussions on 24 September 2008 led to the adoption of Resolution 1834, which expresses the intention to deploy a United Nations military component to follow EUFOR. A UN policing mission, MINURCAT, is already in place alongside EUFOR. Since 24 September, on-going discussions have taken place between member states and the UN, including with the Department of Peacekeeping Organisations. The precise nature of the force has not yet been decided and the mandate remains under discussion.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Children

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for rehabilitation of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [243087]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK has contributed US$35 million to the World Bank led Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), which supports the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants in the greater Great Lakes region of central Africa. The largest programme of its kind in the world, the MDRP, with a budget of US 500 million, targeted an estimated 450,000 ex-combatants in seven countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The MDRP has enabled 30,219 children to be released from armed forces in DRC and to receive services from child protection agencies, including UNICEF. Projects targeting children have primarily focused on tracing their families, facilitating family reunion and providing either vocational training or income generating activities.

Going forward, a new single trust fund has been set up by the World Bank to which the UK (from Africa Conflict Prevention Pool funds) has contributed £1 million. The children component is implemented by Save the Children. This child protection agency has a project targeting for the moment 2,500 children associated with armed forces in eastern DRC.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK has contributed to security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2003; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the reforms initiated. [243170]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the UK has made a bilateral contribution of £24.3 million to security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo, comprising interventions by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence. These reforms include support for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes, police reform and support to the Justice sector.

Police reform is DFID's priority, having provided technical assistance for early strategy development and we are currently supporting the national police reform committee's work to develop what we consider will be an effective police reform plan.

While the police reform process is at an early stage, progress has been made to improve police capacity in service delivery and to strengthen accountability and oversight mechanisms.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government *(a)* have provided and *(b)* plans to provide to those displaced by violence and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [244594]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is at the forefront of the humanitarian effort in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has provided £42 million in 2008 for humanitarian needs, much of which was used to meet the needs of displaced people. This includes £5 million allocated after the latest crisis in North Kivu in October for food, health care, shelter and water and sanitation support for displaced people through UNICEF, the World Food Programme, Oxfam and the International Rescue Committee.

The DFID humanitarian team continue to work closely with the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organisations (NGO) partners on the ground to determine needs. We are keeping the need for further funds under review. DFID will aim to make funds available for the 2009 Humanitarian Action Plan in January and we expect to commit at least £35 million for humanitarian needs in 2009.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many personal, non-work-related flights were taken by staff in his Department with money released by downgrades from business class to economy class for work-related flights under his Department's flexible travel scheme in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how much was spent on each flight in each such year. [243010]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This question cannot be answered without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 105-08W, on departmental public expenditure, what the reasons were for overspends against the country budgets for *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Rwanda, *(c)* Ghana, *(d)* Sierra Leone, *(e)* Bangladesh, *(f)* Nepal and *(g)* the Palestinian Authority in 2007-08. [242709]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Overspends against country budgets do not reflect unplanned excess spending, but reflect approved re-prioritisations of resources in response to events occurring during that financial year.

Specific reasons for the variances in the countries identified are:

(a) Sudan: we increased our contribution to the Common Humanitarian Fund by £5 million and invested an extra £7 million in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) schools programmes and the World Food Programme (WFP) rural roads programme.

(b) Rwanda: we provided extra funds to a Health Sector Support project.

(c) Ghana: we brought forward our General Budget Support contribution from 2008-09 to 2007-08 in order to meet the Government of Ghana's request for all budget support to be paid in the first quarter of their financial year (January to December).

(d) Sierra Leone: we brought forward our support contribution for the 2008 local government elections, which covered procurement and delivery of key elections materials, so as to enable Sierra Leone to meet its Constitution deadline of 5 July 2008. We also brought forward our funding of the completion of the Bumbuna hydro-electric dam to enable the completion of necessary works to allow the dam to be filled during the annual rains which began in May 2008.

(e) Bangladesh: we spent additional amounts on flood and cyclone relief following Cyclone Sidr which struck Bangladesh in November 2007.

(f) Nepal: additional resources were allocated to Nepal at a critical moment in its peace process, to help fund areas of the peace agreements, including support to elections, and to accelerate delivery of development.

(g) Palestinian Authority: in response to a personal request from the Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad, DFID agreed to frontload part of its three-year pledge made at the Paris donor conference by moving money from calendar financial year 2010 to 2008 in order to meet critical funding gaps in the recurrent Palestinian Authority budget and to signal strong political commitment to the Annapolis peace process.

Development Aid: Food

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK funds of the $1.4 billion for global food security has already been disbursed; and how disbursements of such funding are allocated for the purposes of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development DAC creditor reporting system. [243090]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £865 million to respond to global food security. Of this £206 million, or 24 per cent., has been disbursed.

Final allocations for the reporting of projects counting towards the commitment to the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) will be made after quality assurance of project coding within DFID and within the Development Assistance Committee.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's $1.4 billion funding allocation to improve global food security will be delivered through *(a)* international institutions, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* direct funding for national governments. [243091]

Mr. Michael Foster: Of the £865 million new commitments to improve global food security, £364 million, or 42 per cent., will be disbursed through international institutions such as the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research.

£5 million, less than 1 per cent., will be disbursed directly through non-governmental organisations (NGOs). However, NGOs are often the implementing agents and therefore in-direct beneficiaries of funds to, for example, the social protection programme in Bangladesh (£83.5 million) and the UN Horn of Africa Humanitarian Appeal (£42 million).

£295.5 million, or 34 per cent., will be disbursed to governments through budget support and funding to government sector programmes.

A further £200 million, or 23 per cent., for agriculture research will be disbursed through regional research organisations, the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and public-private partnerships, for example, the Global Alliance for Livestock, Vaccines and Medicines.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the $1.4 billion committed by his Department to improve global food security will be released in each of the five years of the disbursement period. [243092]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £865 million to respond to global food security in the short, medium and long term. Short-term responses were primarily for support to humanitarian actions such as food aid and nutrition support and these will mainly be disbursed this and early next year. Further humanitarian funding for short-term needs will be committed depending on need.

Medium to long-term actions such as funding social protection programmes are multi-annual. In Bangladesh, the £70 million commitment over six years will be spread evenly and average approximately £12 million per annum, and in Mozambique, our support to social protection is £2 million per annum. However, DFID understands there is a need to be flexible within programme plans and, if there are unforeseen events, budgets can be moved between financial years.

The annual disbursement of the £400 million for agricultural research is set to increase from the budget for this financial year of £46 million to £57 million in 2009-10, and to over £72 million in 2010-11. Spending levels from 2011-12 are to be determined.

HIV Infection

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is giving to programmes to combat HIV/AIDS in *(a)* Africa and *(b)* Asia; and if he will make a statement. [243088]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS in Africa and Asia, 2005-06 to 2007-08 in £ million is as follows:

			£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Africa	186.1	183.7	206.0
Asia	100.4	112.0	130.3

To strengthen and deliver a wide range of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services in the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, total bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS programmes in Africa was £576 million and in Asia £343 million.

DFID also provides multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, a significant proportion of which is used to tackle HIV and AIDS in Africa and Asia. For example, DFID has provided over £250 million in core support to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Horn of Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for changes in the level of UK aid to the Horn of Africa region. [243409]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are planning to increase our level of bilateral aid to Ethiopia, from the current allocation of £130 million (2008-09), to £150 million in 2009-10, then to £175 million in 2010-11.

Our level of bilateral aid for Somalia and Eritrea will remain unchanged over the same period, at £21 million (Somalia) and £2.1 million (Eritrea) per year.

We have no bilateral programme in Djibouti.

These allocations will cover normal humanitarian requirements, though in the event of a crisis we would consider making further funds available (including to Djibouti).

Nigeria: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people displaced due to the conflict in the Nigerian city of Jos between 28 and 30 November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [243161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Plateau State Government estimates that between 4,000 and 5,000 people were displaced due to the conflict in Jos between 28 and 30 November. Action Aid Nigeria estimates the number displaced at about 4,000.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid projects were supported by his Department in *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* Cambodia and *(c)* Zimbabwe in each of the last three years. [243089]

Mr. Michael Foster: Three tables showing the aid projects that were supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the funding committed over the last three years in Pakistan, Cambodia and Zimbabwe will be placed in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Products: Import Duties

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 391-4W, on the Common Agricultural Policy, what the cash amount of the tariff on *(a)* beef imports from Brazil, *(b)* butter imports from New Zealand, *(c)* lamb imports from New Zealand and *(d)* poultry meat from (i) Brazil and (ii) Thailand was in the last week for which figures are available. [243524]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

For the week beginning 1 December, the most recent week for which figures are available, Customs duty paid on non-processed bovine meat imported from Brazil totalled £37,637.39. The Customs duty paid on non-processed poultry meat imported from Brazil totalled £206,851.17.

Non-processed lamb from New Zealand was imported during this period but no Customs duty was paid due to preferential rates.

There were no imports of butter from New Zealand or non-processed poultry meat from Thailand.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there has been nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [242459]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the core-Department is unaware of any abortive cost to it relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. The core-Department would not hold centrally any such information in respect of any abortive costs incurred by its agencies and any such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Soya Beans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of *(a)* genetically-modified soya and *(b)* farm animals fed on genetically-modified soya for human consumption. [244259]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

All genetically modified (GM) crops must undergo a rigorous safety assessment before they can be authorised for use as food ingredients or animal feed in the European Union. Food ingredients and animal feed derived from GM crops must be labelled accordingly to allow consumers to make an informed choice. There is no requirement for the products (for example meat, milk and eggs) from animals fed GM feed to be labelled as such.

Phytophthora Ramorum

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to combat the spread of Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae. [244120]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and the Forestry Commission are aware of the potential threat these diseases pose to our native habitats and are continuing to take action to control and eradicate them. We appreciate the co-operative and proactive approach which landowners and other stakeholders have taken to manage Phytophthora infections at their properties.

There was an encouraging response to the recent consultation on future management of the risks from 'Phytophthora ramorum' and 'Phytophthora kernoviae'. Officials are currently analysing those responses and will be working to develop a strategy that will make the most effective use of the resources available.

In the meantime, we urge everyone to continue to be vigilant and report any sign of disease, and to observe any restrictions in place where the disease has been found.

Rabbits

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* the Highways Agency on rabbit infestation on land owned or controlled by each; and if he will make a statement. [244411]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On behalf of DEFRA, Natural England generally advises on and deals with complaints concerning rabbit infestations. In the past three years, officials from DEFRA and/or Natural England and previously the Rural Development Service, have dealt with 23 individual cases involving rabbits harboured on railway property. These have all been discussed with Network Rail at a local or regional level. A meeting was held at national level in June 2006 and Natural England are currently arranging a further meeting with Network Rail at national level for early in 2009 to discuss rabbit control on their property.

In the past three years, officials have discussed three cases with the Highways Agency at a local or regional level relating to rabbit infestations on road verges. There are currently no plans to meet with the Highways Agency at a national level. In addition, officials have discussed nine cases with local council highway departments.

SCOTLAND

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241170]

Ann McKechin: In July 2008, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme published a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government Programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with DEFRA. Information about the Programme and its work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act—including a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme that will then begin in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory National Adaptation Programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and report to Parliament.

The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice. All central Government Departments are required to produce Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAPs). The plans are scrutinised by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), and Departments report on progress against their own SDAP targets in their annual reports and other key publications.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243977]

Ann McKechin: My Department has not, at this stage, developed plans on how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

DEFENCE

Academies

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the possibility of academy schools being sponsored by *(a)* the Armed Forces and *(b)* his Department; and what consideration he is giving to the establishment of a military academy school in Colchester. [244476]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* I have held discussions with my hon. Friend the Minister for Schools and Learners over the future of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, including the possible option of it becoming an academy, but no decisions have yet been made. While the MOD has no current plans to sponsor academies, service representatives often become involved with academies to represent service families as an interested party within the local community. In discussions with my hon. Friend the Minister for Schools and Learners, we agreed to look at encouraging the creation of academy schools with links to the local military community, in areas with historic military links and a large military presence, such as Colchester.

Armed Forces: Bullying

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of bullying within the Armed Forces have been reported in the last 24 months, broken down by armed service. [244962]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on bullying are collected bi-annually with the last six-monthly period currently available being up to 30 September 2008. The following figures therefore cover the period 30 September 2006 to 30 September 2008. They cover both formal and informal complaints. These figures are gross totals and do not distinguish between complaints that were upheld or not upheld.

The total number of formal complaints was 156 (Royal Navy 30, Army 58, RAF 68).

The total number of informal complaints was 322 (Royal Navy 132, Army 88, RAF 102).

Armed Forces: Catering

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much per meal his Department spent on individuals serving in the armed forces in the latest year for which figures are available. [244135]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial benefits service personnel receive, broken down by *(a)* service and *(b)* rank. [241750]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Service personnel receive a remuneration package comprising the following elements:

Basic pay—paid in accordance with rank and seniority;

Specialist Pay—paid to recruit and retain service personnel in specific branches;

Allowances—over 80 allowances which cover the broad areas of accommodation, travel and subsistence, separation, location and relocation, clothing, education, compensation and education; and

Non contributory pension.

Rates of basic pay, specialist pay and some allowances, for all members of the armed forces up to the rank of Brigadier and equivalent, are recommended by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) in its annual report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence. Copies of the AFPRB's 37th Report—2008 (Cm 7315) and its Supplement (Cm 7347), which covers the pay of service medical and dental officers, for financial year 2008-09, are available in the Library of the House.

Pay rates for all senior service officers of Major General rank and equivalent, and above, are recommended by the independent Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB) in its annual report to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Health. Copies of the SSRB's 30th Report on Senior Salaries (Cm 7388), which covers financial year 2008-09, are available in the Library of the House.

Those allowances which do not fall within the remit of the AFPRB are reviewed annually by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Current rates for all service allowances are published in the Joint Service Publication 752—Tri Service Regulations for Allowances, which is available on the Internet (via search engine requests for 'JSP 752').

Updated pension rates and associated benefits for service personnel are calculated annually by the MOD. Details of pension benefits for former service personnel for financial year 2008-09 are available on the MOD website at:

www.armedforcespensions.mod.uk

which includes a pensions calculator.

In addition to the remuneration package already described, there is also a wider benefits package for service personnel. This includes free medical and dental care, 30 days annual leave plus other targeted leave such as post operational tour leave, sporting facilities and adventurous training, subsidised accommodation, an operational welfare package and the Forces Discount Brochure.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas mail packages sent to armed forces personnel have incurred a penalty charge to the sender in the latest period for which figures are available. [244963]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) makes no charges at any time on items being transferred within the BFPO system. We are unable to comment on any charges that might be levied by Royal Mail Group.

Armed Forces: Stress

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks in (i) the Army, (ii) the Royal Air Force and (iii) the Royal Navy have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [244493]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has since July 2007 reported on the psychiatric morbidity of the UK armed forces, and quarterly reports for the whole of 2007 are now available both in the Library of the House and from the DASA website: www.dasa.mod.uk. Verified data for the whole of the armed forces covering all deployments is not available prior to 2007.

The DASA statistics report on the numbers of new attendances at MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) during each quarter. The DASA figures for the number of personnel newly assessed with a mental health disorder are broken down by Service and by officers and other ranks, although the Service totals are not broken down by rank. The DASA figures also report the initial mental health assessment made during the patient's first appointment.

The DASA figures are shown in the two tables, and refer to the calendar year 2007:

Service	*Patients assessed with a mental health disorder in 2007*	*Patients assessed with PTSD in 2007*
Royal Navy	510	18
Royal Marines	89	17
Army	2,316	122
RAF	847	17
Characteristics not known	155	6
Total	3,917	180

Rank	*Patients assessed with a mental health disorder in 2007*	*Patients assessed with PTSD in 2007*
Officers	251	9
Other Ranks	3,511	165
Characteristics not known	155	6
Total	3,917	180

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what platform will be introduced to provide an interim armoured scout capability between the end of the Scimitar service life and the introduction of the Future Rapid Effects System Scout variant. [244569]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is planned that the Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicle will remain in service until the future rapid effect system Scout vehicle is available.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Future Rapid Effects System Scout variant to enter service. [244570]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The future rapid effect system programme is currently in its assessment phase. The in-service date for the Scout variant will not be fixed until the main investment decision has been taken.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimates are of the capital costs for the proposed *(a)* small components manufacturing, *(b)* conventional manufacturing rationalisation, *(c)* high explosives fabrication and *(d)* uranium handling facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [244304]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaneau Gwent of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1029W, when he expects the commercial discussions between his Department and AWE plc to conclude. [244305]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Discussions between the Ministry of Defence and AWE plc in respect of these matters are continuing. We hope to reach a final settlement during the next financial year.

AWE Aldermaston

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes, 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W, on AWE Aldermaston, if he will place in the Library a copy of the preliminary safety report for the proposed uranium handling facility at AWE Aldermaston which has been provided to the Health and Safety Executive. [244285]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As I stated in my answer on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W, should the proposed replacement uranium handling facility proceed, a preliminary safety report would be completed. The document to which the hon. Member refers does not currently exist.

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243744]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Staff Christmas parties are paid for from non-public funds or staff subscription. MOD does not use public funds for such activities, in line with departmental guidance and the principles of 'Managing Public Money', and no official funds were used for Christmas parties in the last three years.

Departmental guidance states that it is acceptable for service and civilian staff to be entertained at public expense (subject to strict constraints on the cost and frequency of such activity) only in the context of unit cohesiveness or teambuilding events. However, information on amounts spent on staff entertainment in the last three years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241175]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector. This includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national climate risk assessment. Information about the Programme can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

The Ministry of Defence Climate Change Strategy has been endorsed by Secretary of State for Defence and will be published in the coming weeks. I will arrange to have copies placed in the Library of the House. The Strategy sets high-level targets for the mitigation and adaptation activities that the MOD will take in order to reduce our impact on climate change as well as the impact of climate change on our outputs.

Defence and Analytical Services Agency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* the Defence and Analytical Services Agency's (DASA) monthly price index booklets, *(b)* DASA's quarterly price index forecasts, *(c)* DASA's quarterly foreign price indices and *(d)* DASA's negotiators' briefing packs issued in 2008. [245128]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will arrange for copies of the Monthly Price Indices booklet, Quarterly Foreign Price Indices booklet and the Negotiators Briefing Pack published in 2008 to be placed in the Library of the House.

I am withholding copies of the DASA Price Indices UK Quarterly Forecast as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Defence Equipment: Corrosion

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the costs of corrosion of equipment in the armed forces in each of the last three years. [243256]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The detection, prevention and rectification of corrosion are routine maintenance requirements for all ships, aircraft and land vehicles. The costs of such activity cannot be specifically isolated and are not, therefore, held centrally.

Departmental Consultants

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individuals provided consultancy services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the top 10 contracts by monetary value were in each case. [244964]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence does not hold this information centrally. Summaries for the years 1995-96 to 2007-08 of total MOD expenditure on External Assistance, of which consultancy is a part, is available in the Library of the House.

The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) publishes a list of companies paid £5 million or more in each year within their UK Defence Statistics. This information can be found at:

2005-06

http://www.dasa.mod.Uk/natstats/ukds/2006/c1/table116.html

2006-07

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukds/2007/cl/table118.html

2007-08

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/cl/tablel18.html

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244343]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£ million

	Financial year					
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
British firms	13.4	15.3	18.5	18.1	15.4	13.7
Remploy	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Overseas firms	7.5	7.7	9.3	9.7	8.2	6.7

The figures exclude PFI/PPP projects where the furniture is supplied by the industrial partner and forms a part of the overall project costs. Data are not held prior to financial year 2002-03.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243042]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department has not arranged any citizens' juries.

Departmental Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the quarterly CPS21 publication for each quarter of 2008. [245134]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Copies of CPS21 for each quarter of 2008 are being collated and will be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the planned in-service dates for the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Army Future Lynx helicopters are; [244567]

(2) how many Future Lynx helicopters he plans to procure for the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Army. [244568]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Under the revised arrangements for the Future Lynx project announced by my right hon. Friend, the Defence Secretary on 11 December 2008, *Official Report,* columns 65-66WS, we now plan to buy 34 Future Lynx helicopters for the Army and 28 for the Royal Navy. These new arrangements will provide increased commonality leading to greater versatility and flexibility. The in-service dates remain as 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244015]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence was pleased to receive the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for MOD policy on mental well-being, training and development, flexible working and managing sickness absence.

Initial findings indicate that departmental policy is broadly in line with the recommendations made in the report.

Military Bases: Long Marston

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Engineer Depot at Long Marston has been used for dumping, burying or otherwise disposing of *(a)* asbestos and *(b)* other hazardous materials. [245147]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Engineer's Depot at Long Marston was sold on 24 November 2004 and as part of the disposal process a series of risk based Land Quality Assessments were provided to the purchasers. These Assessments identified a range of contaminants including asbestos which will be dealt with by any developer associated with the former use of the site.

Disposal areas for materials had been located in the north western and southern corners of the site and a former burning ground for radium contaminants was identified on the western boundary. An appropriate level of remediation, to remove the radium contaminants which had been identified, was completed in late 2006.

Military Bases: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the active military sites located in Wales. [244797]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given the way the information is held, it will take officials a little longer to separately identify all of the active military sites in Wales from those that are not in use.

I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Navy: Piracy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many months Royal Navy ships undertaking anti-piracy patrols have been located in the Gulf of Aden in the last 24 months. [244961]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: Since January 2007, the Royal Navy has had at least one vessel located in the Gulf of Aden and the wider Gulf region conducting counter destabilising activities, including counter piracy.

The Royal Navy has also provided HMS Northumberland since 8 December 2008 to carry out the first period of the EU anti piracy mission.

Furthermore, HMS Cumberland was involved with the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 between October and December 2008, under a mandate which allowed them to conduct counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243973]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no specific plans as yet for the armed forces' involvement in events to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012. We will be discussing this with the Royal Household in the coming months and details of events planned will be announced nearer the time.

RAF Machrihanish

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to resurface the runway at MoD Machrihanish. [245108]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As the Machrihanish site is surplus to defence requirements and is being disposed of the Department has no plans to resurface the runway.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to sell off MoD Machrihanish; and if he will make a statement. [245109]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1WS.

Trident

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W, on AWE Aldermaston, whether his Department is considering financing any elements of the programme to replace the Trident nuclear warhead through private finance initiatives. [244306]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no programme to develop a new UK nuclear warhead. There is, however, work being undertaken to inform decisions, likely to be taken in the next Parliament, on whether and, if so, how we might need to refurbish or replace our current warhead. There are no plans to introduce private finance initiatives to fund this work.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions of dedicated air freight traffic within the UK; and if he will make a statement. [242222]

Joan Ruddock: Estimates for the annual carbon dioxide emissions of dedicated air freight within the UK are obtained from The Department for Transport's 2007 publication "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", this is available on the DFT website, at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Table G.10: 'CO_2 emissions at airport level 2005 and 2030' estimates total CO_2 emissions from dedicated air freight flights departing UK airports in 2005 to be 0.6$MTCO_2$. This estimate includes all dedicated air freight flights departing UK airports, not just flights operating from one UK airport to another.

Carbon Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultation with businesses his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on the implementation of the carbon reduction commitment. [240879]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Two formal public consultations on the carbon reduction commitment were undertaken in November 2006 and June 2007 and a further consultation is planned before next spring.

Alongside the public consultations, the Government and the devolved Administrations held workshops attended by over 500 individuals, including those from businesses.

Further engagement with businesses, public sector organisations and other stakeholders is planned in the run up to the implementation of the scheme.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what carbon dioxide reductions are expected as a result of the carbon reduction commitment in its first five years; and how those targets have been calculated. [240960]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Analysis commissioned by the Government on the carbon dioxide emissions reductions achievable under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) conservatively estimates that the scheme could achieve cost effective savings of 0.5 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) per year by 2015 and 1.2MtC (or 4.4 $MtCO_2$) per year by 2020. These figures were calculated by looking at the relative cost of abatement strategies for the participants of the CRC, to determine likely reductions under different carbon price scenarios.

Actual emissions reductions will ultimately depend on the cap on emissions set from 2013 onwards. The Committee on Climate Change will advise on the level of the cap for the CRC, taking into account the information established in the introductory phase, and the Government's overall emissions reductions targets.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from businesses about the effects on their cash-flow of the carbon reduction commitment. [240961]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The Government consulted in November 2006 and June 2007 with respect to the Carbon Reduction Commitment, and at these times some stakeholders expressed concern regarding cash flow implications.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment will be broadly revenue neutral to participants as a whole. All the money raised from the sale of allowances will be recycled back to participants. In response to concerns over cash flow the proposed length of time between the sale of allowances and recycling of auction revenues has been reduced from 18 months to six months. This change has been generally welcomed by stakeholders. In order to maintain the scheme's financial incentives, analysis has indicated that a gap of at least six months must be maintained between the sale of allowances and the return of participants' money. Participants will be able to further reduce the cash flow implications of buying allowances by reducing their carbon emissions, and therefore requiring fewer allowances.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* UK and *(b)* global carbon dioxide emissions in each of the next three years; what plans he has to encourage other governments to achieve emissions reductions in the short term; and if he will make a statement. [242421]

Joan Ruddock: Estimates of the projected annual emissions of carbon dioxide to 2011 are shown in the following tables for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* globally.

The UK projected reductions are shown relative to 1990 levels, both with and without the impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Projections for 2008 to 2011 were published in November 2008, and represent an update on the "Central Scenario" projection published in the Energy White Paper in May 2007.

According to the International Energy Agency, global carbon dioxide emissions will rise on average by 1.6 per cent. between 2008 and 2011.

The UK Government will continue to work with other governments through the United Nations Climate Change process, the EU, G8, other forums and bilaterally to reach a global agreement that reduces global greenhouse emissions.

Table (a) UK carbon dioxide emissions projections 1990 to 2011

						$MtCO_2$
	1990	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
UK CO_2 emissions, central assumption without ETS	592.4	543.7	541.3	534.2	528.2	528.5

Table (a) UK carbon dioxide emissions projections 1990 to 2011

MtCO$_2$

	1990	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Percentage CO$_2$ emissions reduction without EU ETS relative to base year of 1990	n/a	-8.2	-8.6	-9.8	-10.8	-10.8
UK CO$_2$ emissions, central assumption with ETS	592.4	518.1	508.9	506.0	504.2	503.8
Percentage CO$_2$ emissions reduction with EU ETS relative to base year of 1990	n/a	-12.5	-14.1	-14.6	-14.9	-15.0

Source:
UEP, DECC 2008.

Table (b) Global CO$_2$ emissions 2008 to 2011

MtCO$_2$

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Global CO$_2$ emissions, baseline (business as usual projection) 2008	28,906.0	29,368.5	29,838.3	30,315.8

Source:
IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2008.

Carbon Emissions: Combined Heat and Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely effect on UK carbon emissions of replacing all UK household boilers with combined heat and power boilers. [242482]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have been funding trials of combined heat and power systems through the Carbon Trust. The results of these trials suggest that, with currently available technology, micro-CHP boilers would only provide cost-effective reductions in carbon emissions in up to 20 per cent. of homes—generally larger dwellings with above average heat demand.

The replacement of all UK household boilers with domestic micro-CHP boilers is unlikely to prove cost-effective. But, as an illustration, if 5 million units were installed in the most appropriate homes, CO$_2$ savings would be around 1.5 MtCO$_2$ per year, at today's carbon intensity of grid electricity.

A longer term influence comes from the predicted decrease in the carbon intensity of grid electricity, due to changes in the mix of power generation. This will reduce the CO$_2$ savings per unit, and hence also the cost-effectiveness, although technology developments and changing costs will also affect this.

Carbon Emissions: EU Countries

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the projected reduction in carbon dioxide emissions relative to 1990 levels that will be achieved by 2010 by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU, excluding the impact of the EU emissions trading scheme. [242492]

Joan Ruddock: Estimates of the projected annual emissions of carbon dioxide to 2010 are shown in the following tables for *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU. The reductions shown are relative to 1990 levels and for the UK exclude the impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. However, there are no figures available for the EU without inclusion of the impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, therefore those presented include this.

(a) UK Carbon dioxide emission projections 1990-2010

Million tonnes CO$_2$

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
UK CO$_2$ emissions, central assumption without ETS	592.4	599.1	582.0	567.1	559.3	549.8	571.0	548.1	549.9	540.3	548.6
Percentage CO$_2$ emissions reduction w/out EU ETS relative to base year of 1990	n/a	1.1	-1.8	-4.3	-5.6	-7.2	-3.6	-7.5	-7.2	-8.8	-7.4

Million tonnes CO$_2$

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
UK CO$_2$ emissions, central assumption without ETS	559.4	542.7	554.7	555.1	555.2	554.5	543.7	541.3	534.2	528.2
Percentage CO$_2$ emissions reduction w/out EU ETS relative to base year of 1990	-5.6	-8.4	-6.4	-6.3	-6.3	-6.4	-8.2	-8.6	-9.8	-10.8

Source:
UEP 2008, DECC

(b) Energy related CO_2 emissions by the EU in the reference scenario

GIGA tonnes CO_2

Region	*1990*	*2000*	*2006*	*2020*
EU emissions with ETS according to IEA Reference Scenario	4.04	3.80	3.94	3.95
Percentage CO_2 emissions reduction with EU ETS (relative to base year of 1990	n/a	-5.9	-2.5	-2.2

Source:
IEA 'World Energy Outlook', 2008

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1142W, on carbon emissions: local authorities, at what fixed price allowances under the Carbon Reduction Commitment will be sold in each year of the first phase. [242555]

Joan Ruddock: The Government consulted in June 2007 on the price of allowances for the fixed price sales during the introductory phase of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. The Government response to the consultation, published in March 2008, stated that the Government are minded to take forward a fixed price for allowances of £12 per tonne of CO_2 for the three-year introductory phase. The fixed price for allowances will be confirmed in the consultation on the Carbon Reduction Commitment regulations which we plan to publish next spring.

Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he did not place hard copies of the Climate Change Committee's report, Building a Low-Carbon Economy: The UK's Contribution to Climate Change, in the Vote Office; and how many copies of the report have been downloaded from the internet. [243847]

Joan Ruddock: The Committee on Climate Change was vested as an independent body on 1 December 2008, the same day that it was required by the Climate Change Act to give advice on carbon budgets to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change and publish the advice (section 34). Consequently, it could only issue copies of the report on vesting.

The Committee on Climate Change has requested that a copy of the Executive Summary of Building a Low-Carbon Economy: the UK's Contribution to Climate Change be placed in the Vote Office. The Executive Summary includes a CD of the full report.

Copies of the report will also be placed in the Libraries of the House once they have been signed by the Secretary of State.

The Committee on Climate Change does not have figures for numbers of downloaded reports available. However, their reports page, available at:

www.theccc.org.uk/reports/

was viewed 6,921 times between 1 December and 7 December.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what role his Department will have in the promotion of UK climate change and energy objectives overseas; and if he will make a statement. [243946]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has the lead responsibility for the UK's objectives on both climate change and energy. In international negotiations on these issues, the Department works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and other Government Departments.

The Department is leading the Government's work to achieve agreements at EU and international levels on multilateral action to tackle climate change and implementing these agreements.

One example of our current work on energy security is the major international meeting that my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is hosting in London on 19 December. This follows on from the meeting in Jeddah earlier this year, to further the dialogue between oil producing and consuming countries. Following the recent volatility of energy markets, the meeting will consider the impact of the global financial crisis on energy markets and investment, and how countries can work together to address the mutual long-term energy challenges we face.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of reduced domestic energy bills as a result of the measures announced as part of the Home Energy Saving programme. [243265]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: From 1 October to 30 November the Warm Front scheme has spent approximately £20 million of the extra £50 million added to this financial year's budget. This has assisted more than 16,000 households by delivering energy efficiency advice together with a range of heating and insulation measures.

The Government will consult in the new year on proposed legislation regarding the increased carbon emission reduction target and new Community Energy Saving Programme obligations. In anticipation of this, energy suppliers have increased their insulation programmes for this winter. In fact, as part of their obligation to improve household energy efficiency, early in the autumn, energy companies estimated that they would insulate twice as many cavity walls and 50 per cent. more lofts than last winter.

Also as part of the 11 September package, the cold weather payments were increased from £8.50 to £25 a week. Over 500,000 payments have been made this winter.

Thousands of extra people have benefited from energy saving advice from the Act on CO_2 helpline since the 11 September announcement. Run by the EST, it took 89,000 calls in September (against 27,000 in September 2007), 92,000 in October (against 33,000 in 2007) and 62,000 in November (against 37,000 in 2007).

Energy: Training

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individuals have accessed Government funded training through the energy efficiency employment initiative in each month since the inception of the initiative. [242498]

Joan Ruddock: The first phase of the Energy Efficiency Employment Initiative (EEEI) provides help for people wishing to move into loft and cavity wall insulation jobs. The EEEI became operational at the beginning of December 2008. Consequently no monthly figures are yet available.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by whom Warm Front contractors serving the Essex area are approved; and what the average amount charged to individual clients by each contractor as an additional payment for the work done under the scheme is. [243776]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: The Warm Front contractors in the Essex area and the average amount charged to individual clients by each contractor is outlined in the following table:

Installer	*Average contribution (£)*
Cosytop Thermal Insulations Limited	562.90
Dawsetway Heating and Renewables Ltd.	454.48
RG Francis Ltd. (oil)	1,353.02
Iguana Services Ltd.	473.34
Interglow Contracts Ltd.	393.30
Kershaw Contracting Services	641.72
Orion Insulation and Construction Services	578.01
Sec Ltd.	722.30
West Anglia Insulation Ltd.	582.07

The quoted prices under the scheme are harmonised which means contractors in the area will be paid the same rate for the same type of work.

Insulation: Housing

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the Government's insulation scheme for disabled householders to cover households with disabled children. [243074]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front scheme is presently under review, which includes consideration as to whether the existing eligibility criteria are the most effective in targeting vulnerable households in danger of fuel poverty.

As part of this process we will be considering the recommendations of the National Audit Office's Value for Money report on Warm Front, which is due to be published early next year.

Any decisions will be announced in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letters dated 29 September and 29 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding a constituent, Mr C Jones. [240683]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 December 2008]*: I have recently responded to the hon. Member's letter of 29 September and he will receive a reply shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will reply to the letter to him of 15 October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J. Lee. [241698]

Joan Ruddock: My Department does not have a record of receiving a letter from my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton, dated 15 October in regard to Mr. J. Lee. My officials have contacted his office to request a copy.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the special representatives on *(a)* international energy issues and *(b)* carbon trading receive remuneration in respect of those roles. [242260]

Joan Ruddock: No. DECC will meet reasonable expenses incurred by the special representatives on international energy issues and carbon trading in the course of their duties.

Mobile Homes: Energy

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to support energy efficiency measures for mobile homes. [242221]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Warm Front programme provides assistance to vulnerable households, including those living in mobile homes, with repairs of existing and installation of new heating systems.

Mobile homes often prove difficult to treat, with many of the most cost-effective measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation and mains gas central heating being unsuitable. However, Warm Front has developed mechanisms for assessing new technologies that could be brought onto the scheme. We are currently reviewing alternative heating and insulation measures which potentially could provide future solutions for mobile home properties.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for Warm Front grants are under consideration. [242472]

Joan Ruddock: The current number of applications outstanding is 106,179. Each of these applications will be at very different stages and will be eligible for a range of measures. Some customers will be awaiting survey, others will be awaiting work to be installed and others will have an outstanding contribution to make to the cost of the work.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people with Warm Front grant applications under consideration are without heating. [242473]

Joan Ruddock: It is not possible to quantify the exact number of applicants who are currently without heating. Some households will have a heating system with an intermittent fault, others may have intermediate forms of secondary heating and others may be waiting for a heating measure to replace an unreliable and inefficient system. It is not therefore possible to quantify at any exact moment how many households with an outstanding application are without heating.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance is available to individuals who apply for a Warm Front grant where the cost of the work exceeds the original quotation. [242474]

Joan Ruddock: Where an excess payment is required, Warm Front will always be willing to provide clients with advice about sourcing funding from external organisations to help them meet their contribution. Eaga plc, the present Scheme Manager, has well established relationships with such organisations throughout the country and can offer advice and assistance when it is requested.

DECC is aware that some customers have difficulties making a financial contribution. We are currently assessing ways in which we can help customers to make full use of the scheme. Part of this analysis will include considering whether the grants are set at the most suitable levels.

Funding to Warm Front was increased in the pre-Budget report by £100 million, with another £50 million in spending bought forward. We want to make sure as many households as possible get the help they need.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individuals have made an additional contribution to the cost of installing heating under the Warm Front scheme; and what the average amount of such a contribution has been. [242475]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested is as follows:

	Number/£
Total number of customers who have made an additional contribution	130,799
Average customer contribution	487.28

These figures are from 1 June 2005 until end of October 2008.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average waiting period for emergency work to be conducted by Warm Front was on the latest date for which information is available. [242476]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front is not designed to act as an emergency service and the Scheme Manager's target timescales reflect the overarching need to make the best use of the money available. At present the Scheme Manager has a target to complete all heating work within 120 working days of survey. In practice, the average waiting time is less than 65 days for the installation of a heating measure following the initial survey.

However, the Department does recognise that some applicants are in need of urgent assistance and we are currently looking at ways of reducing these timescales for the most vulnerable clients. Any decisions will be announced in due course.

Following the installation of a Warm Front system, the scheme provides a 24-hour emergency breakdown service in case issues arise, which has a target response time of 48 hours.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the Warm Front budget for 2008-09 he expects to have been spent by the end of the fiscal year; and what plans he has for making use of any underspend. [242499]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front budget for 2008-09 is approximately £395 million. We expect to spend the full budget to ensure we deliver the maximum number of heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures to vulnerable households.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1149W, on the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, if he will place in the Library a copy of the pricing framework agreed with Eaga. [242564]

Joan Ruddock: The pricing framework agreed with Eaga plc is commercially sensitive so it will not be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much contractors participating in the Warm Front Scheme were charged for the administration costs of the scheme in the last 12 months. [243415]

Joan Ruddock: Contractors appointed to work under the Warm Front grant scheme are not charged for administration costs.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for official visits to the UK by members of the government of Australia. [240853]

Gillian Merron: Australian Ministers and officials regularly visit the UK. Prime Minister Rudd visited in April. The Australian Defence and Foreign Ministers met their counterparts in Leeds on 28 November. I also met Foreign Minister Stephen Smith on 27 November, and discussed a range of bilateral and international issues. We are in regular contact with the Australian government and their high commission in London to discuss arrangements for further official visits to the UK, but do not disclose details in advance of official announcements.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to strengthen mechanisms for the reporting of human rights violations in Burma. [243093]

Bill Rammell: We remain deeply concerned at the human rights situation in Burma. We use every appropriate opportunity to highlight the ongoing abuses in the UN's human rights bodies. The UK helped to secure a further resolution of the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly on 21 November 2008. The resolution called on the regime to comply with its international human rights obligations, and set out a range of specific concerns. It echoed a Human Rights Council resolution, passed on 18 June, with strong UK support. These resolutions underpin the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Thomas Ojea Quintana, whose mission is the primary reporting mechanism on the situation in Burma. Mr. Quintana visited Burma from 3-7 August and produced a substantive report. We hope he will be able to return to Burma soon to continue his work, and urge the Burmese authorities to give him their full co-operation.

Our embassy in Rangoon continues to monitor the human rights situation, and our ambassador raises our concerns in meetings and correspondence with Burmese Ministers and officials. He last met Burmese Ministers at the beginning of December.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the right hon. Lord Morris of Manchester of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords column WA45, on the Commonwealth Scholarships Programme, what steps have been taken to identify additional funding for scholarships for Canada; what the outcome was of this process; and whether similar steps have been taken for other countries affected by the termination of the Commonwealth Scholarships Programme. [240676]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1852W.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 140W, on departmental air travel, how much departmental air mileage was carbon offset through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership in each of the last two years, broken down by *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic travel. [242037]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is in the process of analysing its air mileage figures for 2007 prior to transferring funds to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEP) for the purchase of offsets. In 2006 the FCO offset 73,509,326 air miles through REEP, of which we calculate 754,810 miles were for domestic travel, the remainder being for non-domestic travel.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's officials last discussed the UK's prospective membership of the euro with the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [242306]

David Miliband: I will write to the right hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from David Miliband to William Hague:

The Government's policy on membership of the singly currency is unchanged. It remains as set out by my right. hon. Friend, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, in his statement to the House in October 1997, and again in his statement on the five test assessment in June 2003. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2008 Budget that, "the Government does not propose euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget". The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the June 2003 statement.

Ethiopia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1772W, whether the individuals to whom British officials spoke had access to a lawyer; whether any of them alleged mistreatment during their discussions with British officials; and whether any of them had been transferred to Ethiopia from Kenya or Somalia. [243469]

Bill Rammell: We have made clear that we are not aware that these individuals' detention was unlawful, but we are unable to go into further details relating to confidential exchanges on counter-terrorist issues with our Ethiopian partners. It is, however, standard practice for our officials to note the well-being of those interviewed. None of these particular detainees complained of any physical mistreatment.

Germany: Energy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his German counterpart on a common EU energy policy; and what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the German undersea pipeline from Russia to Germany with that policy. [242469]

Gillian Merron: The EU recognises the need for a coherent energy policy. The Commission has recently published its Second Strategic Energy Review identifying as priorities diversification of energy sources and supply, infrastructure and energy efficiency. The UK welcomes this document as an important step in ensuring a cohesive EU position on energy security and looks forward to the adoption of an action plan at the Spring European Council.

Discussions about the action plan take place at official and ministerial level, multilaterally and bilaterally, including with Germany. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs regularly covers climate and energy issues when he meets or phones his German counterpart, Foreign Minister Steinmeier.

The proposed Nord Stream pipeline from Russia to Germany is a commercial venture. In the long term Nord Stream could potentially help diversify the EU's routes of energy supplies, one of the key priorities identified in the Strategic Energy Review.

Israel: Religious Freedom

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of restrictions placed on the movements of seminarians in Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities in the Christmas period; and if he will make a statement. [242811]

Bill Rammell: We have made no assessment on this specific issue but we have long standing concerns about Israeli restrictions on movement and access for many groups.

Jestina Mukoko

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Zimbabwe regarding the seizure of Jestina Mukoko, executive director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project; what steps he is taking to secure her release; and if he will make a statement. [242745]

Gillian Merron: We are seriously concerned about the abduction of Jestina Mukoko and others from the Zimbabwe Peace Project. On 6 December and with our full support, the French presidency of the EU issued a statement expressing the EU's deep concern and calling on the government of Zimbabwe to ensure her immediate freedom. This was conveyed to the Zimbabwean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Harare in a démarche by the EU Troika on 8 December. Until she and all other abductees are released and internationally accepted standards of human rights are restored, we shall continue to call for an end to all such human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the government of Israel on suicide bombings in Israel; what recent representations he has received on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [242689]

Bill Rammell: The last suicide bomb in Israel was in Eilat in January 2007. The vast majority of attacks against Israelis in the past year have been rocket attacks fired from Gaza at towns in the south of Israel.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Sderot with the Israeli Defence Minister on his recent visit to Israel and expressed his concerns on these attacks.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the proposed meeting of Israeli and Palestinian leaders in London in December 2008 is scheduled to take place; whether representatives of any other countries will be invited to attend; what the objectives of the meeting are; and if he will make a statement. [242184]

David Miliband: Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert visited London earlier this week. They had separate meetings with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. There was no trilateral meeting nor were representatives of other countries present at the separate meetings.

St. Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which endangered species exist on *(a)* St. Helena, *(b)* Ascension Island and *(c)* Tristan Da Cunha; and what steps the Government has taken to encourage environment conservation on the islands. [240873]

Gillian Merron: The following table, prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), lists 60 endangered species on St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha. The IUCN is the internationally recognised source of information on global endangered species.

In 2001, the Government signed Environment Charters with the Overseas Territories, including with St. Helena and its dependencies. The charters consist of a list of commitments for the Government and individual overseas territory governments to take forward to protect and safeguard the environment of each territory.

The Government provide funding through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development-funded programme, to assist the territories with the implementation of the charters. Assistance to encourage environment conservation on St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha is also provided through the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs-funded Darwin initiative.

Class/ Kingdom	*Phylum*	*Order*	*Family*	*Latin name*	*Species*	*Common name*
Insecta						
Animalia	Arthropoda	Dermaptera	Labiduridae	Labidura herculeana	Herculeana	Saint Helena Earwig.
Actinopterygii						
Animalia	Chordata	Gadiformes	Moridae	Physiculus helenaensis	Helenaensis	Skulpin
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Callionymidae	Callionymus sanctaehelenae	Sanctaehelenae	St. Helena Dragonet
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Scombridae	Thunnus maccoyii	Maccoyii	Southern Bluefin Tuna
Aves						
Animalia	Chordata	Charadriiformes	Charadriidae	Charadrius sanctaehelenae	Sanctaehelenae	St. Helena Plover
Animalia	Chordata	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Rowettia goughensis	Goughensis	Gough Bunting
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Diomedea dabbenena	Dabbenena	Tristan Albatross
Polypodiopsida						
Plantae	Polypodiophyta	Blechnales	Lomariopsidaceae	Elaphoglossum dimorphum	Dimorphum	—
Plantae	Polypodiophyta	Pteridales	Pteridaceae	Pteris adscensionis	Adscensionis	—
Magnoliopsida						
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Commidendrum spurium	Spurium	False Gumwood
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Lachanodes arborea	Arborea	She Cabbage Tree
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Pladaroxylon leucadendron	Leucadendron	HE Cabbage Tree
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Campanulales	Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia linifolia	Linifolia	Large Bellflower
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Caryophyllales	Chenopodiaceae	Atriplex plebeja	Plebeja	—
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Euphorbiales	Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia origanoides	Origanoides	Ascension Spurge
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Malvales	Sterculiaceae	Trochetiopsis ebenus	Ebenus	Ebony, St . Helena Ebony
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Rhamnales	Rhamnaceae	Phylica polifolia	Polifolia	Rosemary, St Helena Rosemary
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Solanales	Solanaceae	Mellissia begonifolia	Begonifolia	—
Aves						
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Diomedea sanfordi	Sanfordi	Northern Royal Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Phoebetria fusca	Fusca	Sooty Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Thalassarche chlororhynchos	Chlororhynchos	Atlantic Yellow-Nosed Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Procellariidae	Pterodroma incerta	Incerta	Atlantic Petrel
Animalia	Chordata	Sphenisciformes	Spheniscidae	Eudyptes moseleyi	Moseleyi	—
Mamalia						
Animalia	Chordata	Cetartiodactyla	Balaenopteridae	Balaenoptera musculus	Musculus	—
Reptilia						
Animalia	Chordata	Testudines	Cheloniidae	Chelonia mydas	Mydas	Green Turtle
Polypodiopsida						
Plantae	Polypodiophyta	Blechnales	Lomariopsidaceae	Elaphoglossum nervosum	Nervosum	Veined Tongue-Fern
Liliopsida						
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Cyperales	Gramineae	Agrostis trachychlaena	Trachychlaena	—
Magnoliopsida						
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Apiales	Umbelliferae	Sium burchellii	Burchellii	Dwarf Jellico
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Commidendrum robustum	Robustum	Gumwood
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Petrobium arboreum	Arboreum	Whitewood
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Campanulales	Campanulaceae	Trimeris scaevolifolia	Scaevolifolia	—
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Campanulales	Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia angustifolia	Angustifolia	Small Bellflower
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Rubiales	Rubiaceae	Nesohedyotis arborea	Arborea	Dogwood
Actinopterygii						
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Labridae	Thalassoma ascensionis	Ascensionis	—
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Pomacanthidae	Centropyge resplendens	Resplendens	Resplendent Pygmy Angelfish
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Pomacentridae	Chromis sanctaehelenae	Sanctaehelenae	—

Class/ Kingdom	*Phylum*	*Order*	*Family*	*Latin name*	*Species*	*Common name*
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Pomacentridae	Stegastes sanctaehelenae	Sanctaehelenae	—
Animalia	Chordata	Perciformes	Scombridae	Thunnus obesus	Obesus	Bigeye Tuna
Animalia	Chordata	Scorpaeniformes	Scorpaenidae	Pontinus nigropunctatus	Nigropunctatus	Deepwater Jack
Animalia	Chordata	Tetraodontiformes	Balistidae	Balistes vetula	Vetula	Queen Triggerfish
Aves						
Animalia	Chordata	Gruiformes	Rallidae	Atlantisia rogersi	Rogersi	Inaccessible Rail
Animalia	Chordata	Gruiformes	Rallidae	Gallinula comeri	Comeri	Gough Moorhen
Animalia	Chordata	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Nesospiza acunhae	Acunhae	Tristan Bunting
Animalia	Chordata	Passeriformes	Emberizidae	Nesospiza wilkinsi	Wilkinsi	Grosbeak Bunting
Animalia	Chordata	Pelecaniformes	Fregatidae	Fregata aquila	Aquila	Ascension Frigatebird
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Diomedea epomophora	Epomophora	Southern Royal Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Diomedea exulans	Exulans	Wandering Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Diomedeidae	Thalassarche chrysostoma	Chrysostoma	Grey-Headed Albatross
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Procellariidae	Procellaria aequinoctialis	Aequinoctialis	White-Chinned Petrel
Animalia	Chordata	Procellariiformes	Procellariidae	Procellaria conspicillata	Conspicillata	Spectacled Petrel
Chondrichthyes						
Animalia	Chordata	Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	Carcharhinus longimanus	Longimanus	Oceanic Whitetip Shark, White-Tipped Shark, Whitetip Oceanic Shark, Whitetip Shark
Mammalia						
Animalia	Chordata	Cetartiodactyla	Physeteridae	Physeter macrocephalus	Macrocephalus	Cachelot, Pot Whale, Sperm Whale, Spermacet Whale
Enopla						
Animalia	Nemertina	Hoplonemertea	Prosorhochmidae	Katechonemertes nightingaleensis	Nightingaleensis	—
Polypodiopsida						
Plantae	Polypodiophyta	Blechnales	Lomariopsidaceae	Elaphoglossum bifurcatum	Bifurcatum	—
Liliopsida						
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Cyperales	Gramineae	Sporobolus caespitosus	Caespitosus	—
Magnoliopsida						
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Apiales	Umbelliferae	Sium bracteatum	Bracteatum	Jellico, Large Jellico
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Commidendrum rugosum	Rugosum	Scrubwood
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Cotula moseleyi	Moseleyi	—
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Asterales	Compositae	Melanodendron integrifolium	Integrifolium	Black Cabbage Tree
Plantae	Tracheophyta	Violales	Frankeniaceae	Frankenia portulacifolia	Portulacifolia	St Helena Tea, Tea Plant

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his US counterpart on the future prospects for a no-fly zone over Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [242557]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his US counterpart on Sudan. We are working closely with the US to resolve the conflict in Darfur including through support to both the political process and the peacekeeping mission, and pressing all parties to end the conflict and commit to a full ceasefire.

We are not currently proposing a no-fly zone for Darfur. We assess that a no-fly zone would restrict essential humanitarian operations and be a major logistical challenge due to the size of Darfur and the lack of available air assets. The African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1591. We continue to press all parties for the rapid and full deployment of UNAMID.

Wines

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles of *(a)* blue chip list wines, *(b)* fine wines, *(c)* reception or drinking wines and *(d)* spirits and liqueurs were held in the Government wine cellar managed by his Department in each of the last five years; what the estimated value of each type of drink and of the Government wine cellar in total was in each year; how much was spent on (i) blue chip list wines, (ii) fine wines, (iii) reception or drinking wines and (iv) spirits and liqueurs for the Government wine cellar in each of those years; what the expenditure on the Government wine cellar was in each of those years; what proportion of the cellar stock is currently English wine; and what the policy is in respect of the procurement of English wines for the cellar. [241055]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality in Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for the management of the Government Wine Cellar.

Government Hospitality defines the cellar stock as either "fine" or "beverage" wines. Over the last five years the cellar stock has amounted to between 36, 500 and 40, 000 bottles. From this total, approximately 2 000 bottles are "reception" or "beverage" wines, and approximately 35, 000 are "fine" wines. The stock of spirits and liqueurs is approximately 200 bottles. The overall value of the cellar stock is approximately £790,000.

Government Hospitality has recorded the following expenditure on new stock for the cellar over the past five financial years:

	£
2003-04	93,503
2004-05	60,059
2005-06	95,264
2006-07	108,715
2007-08	137,460

English and Welsh wine forms approximately 5 per cent. of the total cellar stock. Government Hospitality has had a policy of purchasing English and Welsh wines for over 20 years. Wines are selected for their quality and longevity, and their suitability for use with a range of British produce.

NORTHERN IRELAND

AccessNI

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the nature is of the implementation issues experienced by AccessNI upon taking over background checks from the Police Service of Northern Ireland on 1 April 2008. [244809]

Paul Goggins: Initially, AccessNI did not have sufficient staff to cope with the applications received. These problems have now been resolved and AccessNI is meeting all its service standards.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what work was undertaken by AccessNI in conjunction with other bodies in the UK to establish best practice prior to taking over the background checks form the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [244810]

Paul Goggins: AccessNI was established through a joint programme that comprised representatives from the Northern Ireland Office, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The programme team consulted with the Criminal Records Bureau and Disclosure Scotland.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what work has been undertaken to rectify the implementation issues experienced by AccessNI upon taking over background checks from the Police Service of Northern Ireland; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such work. [244811]

Paul Goggins: Additional staff have been appointed and the working hours extended. As a result of these actions I can confirm that AccessNI is now meeting its service standards.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what (a) resources and (b) personnel have been made available to Access NI in its first year of operation; and what assessment he has made of AccessNI's ability to perform the functions it assumed from the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding background checks. [245142]

Paul Goggins: AccessNI was established on 1 April 2008 and has been in operation for less than nine months. All necessary resources to enable AccessNI to achieve its service targets have been made available. This has included additional staffing, including both permanent and temporary, the creation of overtime at weekends and evenings and the provision of additional accommodation.

Initially AccessNI had a total of 22 staff but due to the heavier than expected workload this number increased to its current total of 57 (or 63 if Identity and Passport Service Staff are included). This number includes both permanent and temporary staff.

It is important to note that while criminal history searches for certain posts had previously been carried out by the PSNI, the checks carried out now are more stringent than in the past.

I am pleased to report that AccessNI is now meeting all of its service standards.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental consultants, which organisations were used as external consultants in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [243397]

Mr. Woodward: The information on which organisations were used as external consultants in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last three years is detailed in the following lists.

(a) Organisations used as external consultants for the period April 2007 to March 2008:

NI Youth Forum
ASM Howarth
Isherwood and Ellis
Anderson Spratt
Disability Action
EC Harris

- Kairos
- Goldblatt McGuigan
- Real Asset Management
- Deloitte
- Moore Stephens
- DLA Piper
- FGS McClure Watters
- 22 Care Work
- Carter Goble Associates
- Capita Learning and Development
- PKF (Panel, Kerr and Foster) Consultancy
- Myles Danker Estate Management Advice
- PR Services
- Price Waterhouse Cooper
- Quest Consulting
- BDO Stoy Hayward
- Northern Defence Industries Ltd.
- Building Design Partnership
- Whitewater
- Siemens
- L'Estrange and Brett
- Mosiac
- T and S International
- Mott Macdonald
- NI Peacebuilders
- UKAS (Accredited Testing for Laboratories)
- Deramore Consulting
- Carnagh Communication
- Quality Business Management
- Web Design Solutions
- Al Consultancy
- Jura Consultants
- iB Solutions
- Helm Corporation
- RWDP Ltd.
- IT Alliance
- KPMG
- No Tomatoes
- British Telecom
- Grafton Recruitment
- Graphic Printing Service
- Mentec
- The Old School
- Coppernoise
- Net-Finity
- Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust
- Label One Ltd.
- Quadrant
- Odgers, Ray and Berndston
- Peninsula Print and Design Ltd.
- Microsoft
- Jenkinson Consulting
- Page Setup
- SELEX
- ICS Computing Ltd.
- Milward Brown Ulster
- Qinetig
- Fujitsu

(b) Organisations used as external consultants is not available for the last five years and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs. The following list provides information on organisations used as external consultants for the periods April 2006 to March 2007 and April 2005 to March 2006:

For the period April 2006 to March 2007:

- Deloitte
- L'Estrange and Brett
- Tim Lewis Recruitment
- Grafton Recruitment
- OGC Strategic Assignment Consultancy Service
- Osprey Mott MacDonald
- CPCR Ltd.
- T and S International
- Parasol
- Parity
- Scrutiny Panel
- Singularity
- AH Design
- Dream Group Ltd.
- British Telecom
- Jenkinson Consultancy
- Crown Architectural
- Mentec International Ltd.
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- ARCS (UK) Ltd.
- BIC Systems
- The Whitehall and Industry Group
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- Hewlett Packard
- Stredia
- NI Youth Forum
- RPS Group plc
- Young Minds
- Community Dialogue
- PA Consulting Group
- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- Anderson Spratt
- DLA Piper
- Anne McMurray Consulting Ltd.
- Keppie Design
- Photobase
- Martin Allnutt and Associates
- Operational Team
- BDS Solutions
- JBM Consultants Ltd.
- Building Design Partnership
- Biznet
- Watts and Partners
- Newell and Budge
- Aedas
- BDO Stoy Hayward
- Cleaver Fulton Rankin
- Queens University Belfast

For the period April 2005 to March 2006:

- CPCR Ltd
- OGC Strategic Assignment Consultancy Service
- Daniell Consulting

Deloitte
T and S International
Watts and Partners
Williamson Consulting
Keppies Design
IB Solutions
Grafton Recruitment
L'Estrange and Brett
BDO Stoy Hayward
Jenkinson Consulting
Napier Watson
AH Design
Parity
Colin Burrows CICS Ltd
ASM Horwath
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Anderson Spratt
Tim Lewis Recruitment
Clariteq Systems Consulting
AASK
The Test Store
Penna PLC
Turley Associates
Osprey Mott MacDonald
TTC International
Clare Consulting
PA Consulting
DLA Piper
Cleaver Fulton and Rankin
Securetest
Anderson Spratt
BB Consultancy Ltd.
Parasol
MMMA
Aedas
ICS Computing
Queens University Belfast
Building Design Partnership
Hewlett Packard
Forensic Science Services
Karolyn Cooper Drafting Services
Mentec International Ltd
JBM Consultants Ltd
Crown Architectural
The Whitehall and Industry Group

Departmental Early Retirement

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on early retirement. [243232]

Mr. Woodward: Early retirement is governed by the rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) or Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme NI (PCSPSNI). The Department considers each individual case on its merits and in accordance with business needs.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241233]

Paul Goggins: Departmental expenditure on ministerial hospitality is not recorded in a way that is easily identifiable and so to provide the information requested could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on hospitality is set out in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 881W, on departmental hospitality, if he will list each of the events hosted. [243245]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is as follows:

Spring reception for representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland;

Reception hosted by the Prime Minister;

Royal Garden Party attended by HM Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh held at university of Ulster, Coleraine, Co. Antrim;

Summer garden party for representatives of the Northern Ireland Prison Service;

Summer garden party for representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland;

Summer reception for representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors;

Reception to mark contribution of the General Federation of Trade Unions;

Reception to mark honorary awards made to the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning;

Reception for the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee;

Reception to mark the opening of a gallery at Hillsborough Castle;

Reception for Vital Voices;

Reception for RUC Widows Association;

Reception to mark elevation of Archbishop Brady to become a Cardinal;

Reception to mark contribution of the charity Childline;

Christmas reception for representatives of the criminal justice community in Northern Ireland;

Christmas reception for representatives of the police and military community in Northern Ireland;

Christmas reception for representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland;

Christmas reception for key Northern Ireland stakeholders in London;

Reception to mark royal investiture ceremony;

Spring reception for representatives from the business, community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland.

I also hosted several meetings with private individuals at which hospitality was provided in the course of my normal duties.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 881W, on departmental hospitality, where each of the events was held. [243246]

Paul Goggins: The events referred to in the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, were all held at Hillsborough Castle with the exception of the royal garden party at Coleraine, Co. Antrim and the Christmas reception held at the Northern Ireland Office in London.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental hospitality, which firms were used to supply hospitality. [243247]

Paul Goggins: The hospitality referred to in the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, was provided in Northern Ireland through a tendered contract with catering company Hamilton and Kirk.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1169-70W, on departmental pay, how many people did not receive bonuses. [243385]

Mr. Woodward: In 2007-08, 1,084 people did not receive a bonus.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1169-70W, on departmental pay, what procedure is used to decide whether bonuses should be awarded. [243386]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office operates three bonus schemes.

Directors (senior civil service pay band 2) have delegated authority to award special bonuses in their business areas throughout the reporting year, which are available for all staff up to assistant director level. Nominations for special bonus awards can be made by any member of staff at any stage during the year and each director is responsible for assessing those recommendations for staff within his/her directorate and approving payment, as appropriate. This is normally done on a quarterly basis.

Annual performance related bonuses for staff below the senior civil service are part of the NIO's overall pay arrangements. Individual bonus recommendations are made by line managers and moderated by panels across the Department under the supervision of more senior managers.

Bonuses for SCS staff are calculated on the basis of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Individual bonus recommendations are made by line managers and these are moderated by a number of remuneration committees with the involvement of a non-executive director.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1169-70W, on departmental pay, how many non-pensionable bonuses have been awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last five years; and what the cost was of such bonuses. [243387]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office operates three bonus schemes. All bonuses paid under these are non-consolidated. The Special Bonus Scheme rewards particularly meritorious contributions during the year. The two end of year bonus schemes reward performance and delivery throughout the year for Grade D2 to A staff, and for Senior Civil Service staff. The numbers and cost of these over the last five years are set out in the following tables.

Special bonuses

	Number of awards	*Total cost (£)*
2007-08	811	229,028
2006-07	1,006	209,866
2005-06	773	174,917
2004-05	793	176,217
2003-04	666	133,736

End of year bonuses

	Number of awards	*Total cost (£)*
2008	409	609,875
2007	324	557,270
2006	292	502,667
2005	1,731	476,299
2004	1,670	362,930

Departmental Retirement

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have retired from his Department in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [243234]

Mr. Woodward: The following tables provide details of the number of staff who have retired from the Department in each of the last five years.

Between age 60 and 65

	60	*61*	*62*	*63*	*64*	*65*
2004-05	4	—	1	—	—	—
2005-06	8	—	3	—	—	3
2006-07	11	—	2	1	—	2
2007-08	8	2	2	2	3	2
2008-09 (to date)	6	1	—	—	—	4

Actuarially reduced retirement

	50	*52*	*58*	*59*
2004-05	—	—	1	—
2005-06	1	—	—	—
2006-07	—	—	—	1
2007-08	2	—	—	2
2008-09 (to date)	—	1	—	—

Early retirement

	56	*57*	*58*	*59*
2004-05	1	2	3	1
2005-06	1	1	4	—
2006-07	—	—	1	1
2007-08	—	—	—	1
2008-09 (to date)	—	—	—	1

Departmental Television

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, what the makes were of the televisions purchased by his Department; and how many of each make were bought. [243456]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, purchased six televisions in the year 2007-08 at a total cost of £2,415.

The makes were:

Panasonic (4),
Bush (1)
and Toshiba (1).

Departmental Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental travel, how much has been spent on hotels used by his staff in the last 12 months; and if he will list the hotels used. [243240]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £200,601 on hotels during 2007-08.

Other miscellaneous expenditure which may have been incurred during hotel stays, such as business related telephone calls, are reclaimed as expenses and costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the names of hotels regularly used by NIO staff has not been provided in the interests of staff security.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. In doing so the NIO always seeks to obtain the best value hotels available, that are within a reasonable travelling distance of the destination, obtaining the best prices for hotels rooms at the time of booking and making use of Government rates where available.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many members of staff of his Department travelled abroad on official business in each of the last 12 months; [243237]

(2) with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 882W, on departmental travel, how many members of staff had their international travel paid for by his Department in the last 12 months. [243239]

Mr. Woodward: The number of staff who travelled abroad in each of the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

	2007		*2008*									
	Nov	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
USA	4	0	0	0	8	1	1	0	3	1	3	2
Europe	5	0	3	2	4	8	0	[1]9	4	0	4	2
Republic of Ireland—Flights[2]	4	0	4	3	3	3	1	3	3	0	6	6
Republic of Ireland—Rail	14	3	6	8	0	9	8	7	11	10	4	14

[1] Five of these staff travelled on the Eurostar.

[2] Journeys made to the Republic of Ireland by staff using their private car cannot be identified except at disproportionate cost.

All official business travel undertaken by staff is paid for by the Department.

Immigrants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been resident in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [243979]

Mr. Woodward: The Government's information on the number of European economic area and non-European economic area nationals within the UK is not broken down by region of residence.

The collation of Northern Ireland demographic statistics, along with the provision of official information on Northern Ireland's population, is a devolved matter which is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), an Executive agency within the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel.

Police: Training

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest estimate of the cost of *(a)* construction and *(b)* operation is of the new Police and Emergency Services Training facility at Cookstown in its first year of operation. [245139]

Paul Goggins: The Desertcreat college will provide education and training for operational and support staff within the police, prison and fire and rescue services.

The current estimated construction cost of the college is £150 million. The current estimated running cost in the first year of operations is £6-£8 million.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners were removed from Northern Ireland under prisoner transfer agreements in the last year for which figures are available. [244461]

Paul Goggins: In the 12-month period commencing 1 November 2007, nine prisoners were removed from Northern Ireland under prisoner transfer agreements—eight to establishments in England and Wales, and one to the Irish Prison Service.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243976]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has not, at this stage, developed plans on how mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Reoffenders

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1321W, on reoffenders, what assessment he has made of how the reoffending rates for Northern Ireland compare to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other parts of the UK. [243438]

Paul Goggins: With reference to the answer given on 13 November 2008, published reoffending rate cohorts for those discharged from custody in England and Wales are compared with similar Northern Ireland reoffending rate cohorts in the following tables.

2004 quarter 1 cohort (England and Wales)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	815	76.4
18+	15,761	51.9

2004 calendar year cohort (Northern Ireland)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	60	76.7
18+	826	32.0

2005 quarter 1 cohort (England and Wales)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	844	73.1
18+	14,595	49.1

2005 calendar year cohort (Northern Ireland)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	60	71.7
18+	843	37.1

2006 quarter 1 cohort (England and Wales)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	817	77.0
18+	14,380	46.5

2006 calendar year cohort (Northern Ireland)

Age (discharged from custody)	*Number of offenders*	*One year reoffending rate (percentage)*
10 to 17	41	70.7
18+	986	37.7

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1321W, on reoffenders, if he will provide updated figures for the categories of information given in the answer; [243440]

(2) with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 1321W, on reoffenders, if he will provide a breakdown by relevant offence of the reoffending rates within *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* three years; and what percentage of offenders in each category were aged (i) between 16 and 21, (ii) between 22 and 25, (iii) between 26 and 30, (iv) between 31 and 40, (v) between 41 and 50, (vi) between 51 and 65 and (vii) over 65 years; [243441]

(3) what percentage of all former prisoners in Northern Ireland had reoffended following release from custody on the latest date for which figures are available. [243442]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is as follows:

(a) During the calendar year 2006, there were 437 prisoners released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland who were aged 16 to 25 on the date they were given a custodial sentence. During the twelve months following the date of their release, 225 of these ex prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a one year reoffending rate of 51.5 per cent.

(b) During the calendar year 2004, there were 406 prisoners released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland who were aged 16 to 25 on the date they were given a custodial sentence. During the three years following the date of their release, 304 of these ex prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a three year reoffending rate of 74.9 per cent.

(c) Table 1 gives breakdowns of reoffending rates within 12 months by age and index offence for the 2006 cohort and Table 2 the equivalent figures within three years for the 2004 cohort.

Table 1

	Age								
Index offence	*Less than 16*	*16-21*	*22-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-65*	*Over 65*	*Total*
Violence against the person	80	58	23	24	20	19	0	0	31
Sexual	0	38	17	13	9	13	0	25	13

Table 1

	Age								
Index offence	*Less than 16*	*16-21*	*22-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-65*	*Over 65*	*Total*
Burglary	0	62	70	80	55	25	0	0	62
Robbery	100	39	41	60	16	50	0	0	38
Theft	80	71	57	43	47	33	50	0	58
Fraud and forgery	0	0	60	40	0	17	0	0	25
Criminal damage	80	71	50	50	50	57	0	0	58
Motoring offences	0	64	19	31	33	18	40	100	31
Drug offences	0	40	27	17	10	0	0	0	17
Other	67	74	65	19	50	45	43	0	54
Total	79	60	40	32	29	25	18	33	39

Table 2

	Age								
Index offence	*Less than 16*	*16-21*	*22-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-65*	*Over 65*	*Total*
Violence against the person	100	68	50	67	51	29	17	0	55
Sexual	100	50	50	0	23	0	6	0	15
Burglary	100	98	87	92	45	50	0	0	87
Robbery	0	75	83	57	60	50	0	0	70
Theft	100	96	72	40	57	67	0	0	81
Fraud and forgery	0	33	50	75	36	25	0	0	42
Criminal damage	0	92	70	71	82	33	100	0	75
Motoring offences	0	75	75	61	63	47	67	0	65
Drug offences	0	100	47	63	59	17	0	0	53
Other	100	74	53	57	73	64	43	0	66
Total	100	82	65	61	56	39	28	0	63

(d) During the calendar year 2006, there were 1,027 prisoners of all ages released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland. During the twelve months following the date of their release, 401 of these ex prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a one year reoffending rate of 39.0 per cent.

(e) During the calendar year 2004, there were 886 prisoners of all ages released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland. During the three years following the date of their release, 557 of these ex prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a three year reoffending rate of 62.9 per cent.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) for what reason he did not reply in writing to question 212556 on prosecutions for offences involving agricultural vehicles tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 17 June 2008; and if he will make a statement; [245214]

(2) how many prosecutions for offences involving agricultural vehicles with inadequate lighting there have been in Northern Ireland in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [245215]

Paul Goggins: According to my Department's records, question No. 212556 was withdrawn on 25 June 2008. I apologise if there has been any confusion.

Inadequate lighting on agricultural vehicles does not constitute a separate offence by legislation and therefore the data are not available in the format requested.

TRANSPORT

A12: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work to start on a junction between the A12 and the Northern Approach Road at Colchester. [245148]

Paul Clark: Delivery of this scheme is related to planning conditions and is a matter for developers to take forward in line with plans for delivery of proposed housing, employment and leisure facilities in north Colchester. The road scheme must also complete the necessary statutory processes. In view of this, a precise start date is not currently available but work is expected to start in 2009, subject to a detailed review of engineering issues.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to bring section 10 of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 into force. [243362]

Paul Clark: Section 10 of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains a power to introduce mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes across the UK. We have no immediate plans to implement it at this stage. Introducing UK-wide recognition of passes would be a highly complex undertaking and not without cost.

The Government's immediate priority has been to improve the concessionary travel entitlement of those eligible in England and I feel it would be useful to have a period of stability while the new England-wide concession beds in.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in the East Riding of Yorkshire have a concessionary bus pass for over 60-year-olds; and if he will make a statement. [244779]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many applications individual authorities have received.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 30 November this year, East Riding of Yorkshire's card supplier had dispatched 62,781 new smartcard concessionary passes for older and disabled people.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library copies of correspondence his Department has had with *(a)* UK Members of the European Parliament and *(b)* the European Commissioner on the proposal to limit emissions from new cars to 120g of carbon dioxide for every kilometre travelled by 2012. [242896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK has been fully involved in negotiations on the European new car CO_2 regulation—which would set an average (not limit) of $130gCO_2/km$ by 2012—both with the European Commission and the European Parliament. In the years since the Commission's intention to legislate was first made public, many items of correspondence—estimated at several hundred pieces of information—have been exchanged: these cannot be easily distinguished from other policy items without incurring disproportionate cost. Details of correspondence with MEPs are not normally disclosed.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241177]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Government are working on measures to mitigate climate change, for example in transport we have played a key role in negotiations on new car efficiency standards and worked in Europe to include aviation in the European Emissions Trading Scheme. However, we recognise we must plan to adapt to those changes in climate that are unavoidable and their impacts on Britain's transport network.

As part of our 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' strategy, published in November 2008 and on which we are currently consulting, we have included adapting to climate change through investing in programmes and projects that enable us to adapt the transport system over time to anticipated changing demands in the changing climate. Further details are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/dasts/dastsreport.pdf

In July 2008 Government published their response for adapting to the possible impacts of climate change in its adaptation strategy, details of which are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/index.htm

Actions on transport have included:

Working closely with Network Rail in designing methodologies to ensure renewal work incorporates increased resilience and that the network can withstand future climate related events.

Establishing a cross-rail industry forum and commissioning research to identify and address challenges to the railway and produce hazard maps highlighting vulnerable areas.

Completing research on adapting materials and techniques in highway works to the changing climate which will be published, by the Highways Agency, as a guide for local authorities.

The Highways Agency's assessment of how to manage the risks from climate change to its strategic road network and has already improved drainage and road surface standards to increase resilience.

Dartford River Crossing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles *(a)* used and *(b)* were predicted before the start of the year to use the Dartford River Crossing in each of the last 12 months which paid by (i) cash and (ii) Dart Tag; and how many used the crossing in each month of the previous 12 months and paid by cash. [245410]

Paul Clark: The following tables set out the information requested:

	December	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Actual 2006-07							
Cash vehicles	3,345,218	2,872,483	2,850,899	3,311,800	3,412,657	3,494,516	3,485,125
Dart Tag vehicles	874,264	1,016,204	953,081	1,086,697	973,733	1,061,490	1,040,529
Total	4,219,482	3,888,687	3,803,980	4,398,497	4,386,390	4,556,006	4,525,654
Projected 2007-08							
Cash vehicles	3,326,414	2,861,881	2,837,276	3,313,699	3,378,530	3,459,571	3,450,274
Dart Tag vehicles	875,733	1,013,047	953,834	1,077,047	963,996	1,050,875	1,030,124
Total	4,202,147	3,874,928	3,791,110	4,390,746	4,342,526	4,510,446	4,480,397
Actual 2007-08							
Cash vehicles	3,242,760	2,888,191	2,976,707	3,223,931	3,232,646	3,437,826	3,347,945
Dart Tag vehicles	854,054	1,049,550	1,026,015	984,399	1,076,323	1,028,338	1,041,806
Total	4,096,814	3,937,741	4,002,722	4,208,330	4,308,969	4,466,164	4,389,751

	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Actual 2006-07						
Cash vehicles	3,633,070	3,780,282	3,486,060	3,427,395	3,187,061	40,286,566
Dart Tag vehicles	1,057,714	1,010,793	996,365	1,088,126	1,063,974	12,222,970
Total	4,690,784	4,791,075	4,482,425	4,515,521	4,251,035	52,509,536
Projected 2007-08						
Cash vehicles	3,596,739	3,742,479	3,451,199	3,393,121	3,155,190	39,966,374
Dart Tag vehicles	1,047,137	1,000,685	986,401	1,077,245	1,053,334	12,129,458
Total	4,643,876	4,743,164	4,437,601	4,470,366	4,208,525	52,095,832
Actual 2007-08						
Cash vehicles	3,597,970	3,729,553	3,304,591	3,347,900	2,790,671	39,120,691
Dart Tag vehicles	1,098,397	941,550	1,055,653	1,122,481	1,031,550	12,310,116
Total	4,696,367	4,671,103	4,360,244	4,470,381	3,822,221	51,430,807

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to reply to the letter of 15 October 2008, sent by Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott MEP, on the M.V. Coronia, Directive 98/18/EC and point 4.3 of the Merchant Shipping (Passenger Ships on Domestic Voyages) Regulations 2000. [244687]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I hope to write to Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott MEP addressing the issues he has put to the Secretary of State about the M.V. Coronia within the next few days.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions his Department has reached in fulfilment of its duty under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the disability equality duty. [240976]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has reviewed its progress against the commitments given in its Disability Equality Scheme, as it is required to do under section 3.111 of the statutory code of practice of the Disability Equality Duty.

Progress can be found in its annual report on the Disability Equality Scheme which will be published on the departmental website shortly.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on departmental manpower, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the differences in the percentage of white staff receiving the highest marking in each annual appraisal round as compared to staff from ethnic minorities. [244454]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport assesses the distribution of appraisal marks annually. Performance reports are countersigned and then moderated. Line managers receive regular training on the Department's performance management scheme and consequent diversity implications.

For the 2007-08 performance year, proposed markings for Department for Transport (DfT) (c) were analysed for diversity purposes and where appropriate business units were challenged to ensure that the markings were fair and correct. This pro-active challenge will continue in future years.

Further analysis is being undertaken, and initial findings suggest that variations from expected distribution is due to a number of factors. The final analysis will be published early in 2009.

The Department's performance management system is under review and any changes will be subject to an equality impact assessment.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243562]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243732]

Mr. Hoon: It is central departmental policy that official funds are not used on staff Christmas parties.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244385]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its agencies does not generally hire permanent employees on an hourly rate. However under delegated pay arrangements it is the responsibility of each individual business unit within the Department to set its rates of pay in accordance with the business needs of the unit.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243358]

Mr. Hoon: The payment performance in respect of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses is not separated from the Department of Transport's overall payment performance and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2006-07 and 2007-08 the Department was required to monitor its payment performance against a target to pay all valid invoices within 30 days of receipt. The Department's performance against this target during the last two complete financial years is shown in the following table:

Valid invoices paid within 30 days of receipt

		Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Central Department	95.5	95.8
DfT agencies	98.8	92.4

Measurement of the number of these invoices that had been paid within 10 days of receipt could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 44W, on DfT Rail: secondment, whether the one person seconded from a train operating company to work in DfT Rail was given *(a)* line management responsibility for civil servants, *(b)* the right to take disciplinary action against civil servants and *(c)* the right to complete annual performance reports on civil servants. [244458]

Mr. Hoon: Individuals seconded into the Department for Transport (DfT) are expected to work on the same basis as civil servants. Their duties are agreed with their line manager and, where line management is part of the role, it will include responsibility for discipline and performance management of civil servants. The person seconded from a train operating company to Department for Transport (DfT) Rail was given the normal duties and responsibilities of a civil servant for the period of the secondment.

Driving Standards Agency: Training

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1569W, on the Driving Standards Agency: training, what managerial benefit the five managers in the Driving Standards Agency gained from attending the horse whispering course. [242321]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 December 2008]*: Any courses attended by Driving Standards Agency (DSA) managers are designed to fulfil the objectives of the DSA Leadership and Development programme, by providing a common standard of leadership in DSA and enabling managers to identify their own development needs. The contribution of individual courses to these wider aims is kept under regular review.

Finsbury Ltd.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with (i) Finsbury Ltd. and (ii) Roland Rudd; [243130]

(2) what recent representations he has received from Finsbury Ltd. in connection with the proposal for a third runway at Heathrow since 1 January 2007. [243131]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Transport met with a representative of Finsbury Ltd. on 12 and 16 December.

No representations have been received from them with regards to proposals for a third runway at Heathrow airport.

Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff his Department has recruited from outside the Civil Service to senior Civil Service grade posts since 30 July 2007; and of these how many such staff are members of the Nuvos pension scheme. [244207]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has recruited 13 staff from outside the civil service into senior civil service grade posts since 30 July 2007. All became members of the Nuvos pension scheme.

M27: Noise

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of the level of noise on the M27 between *(a)* junctions 11 and 12, *(b)* junctions 10 and 11, *(c)* junctions 9 and 10 and *(d)* junction 9 and the River Hamble; and whether this assessment has changed over the last 10 years. [245149]

Paul Clark: Noise levels on all four sections were assessed to establish whether they met the Hansard sift criteria published on 11 November 1999. None met the criteria for further investigation.

An assessment of the noise levels on the M27 between Junctions 11 and 12 was carried out in 2006 as part of the Environmental Statement for the scheme to construct a climbing lane in each direction between junction 11 (Fareham) and junction 12 (Portsmouth). That assessment concluded overall noise levels would reduce slightly in the opening year as a result of using low noise surfacing.

M5

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Highways Agency have taken to clear culverts and drains between junctions 8 and 11A of the M5; what long-term maintenance plans are in place to ensure that they remain free-flowing; and if he will make a statement. [244416]

Paul Clark: The following work has been carried out by the Highways Agency to clear culverts and drains between Junctions 8-11A of the M5 during the course of the last year:

All gully outlets between Junctions 8 and 9 and the outfalls of all gullies have been tested between Junctions 9 and 11a, to ensure that water drains away satisfactorily.

Renewal and replacement of sections of filter material in French drains to allow satisfactory discharge of run-off from carriageways between Junctions 8 and 11.

Cleaning of central reservation chambers/drainage pipes, over a distance of eight miles.

Visual inspections of large culverts beneath the M5 between Junctions 8 and 11a. Silt cleaned from culvert at M5 J11a with CCTV surveys of smaller drains to ascertain their condition.

Removal of root infestation from drainage pipes identified from CCTV survey, over a distance of 0.7 miles.

Repairs to remove defects to drainage pipes identified by CCTV survey at M5 between Junction 9 and 10.

Vegetation clearance and re-profiling of ditches, over a distance of 17 miles.

The information collected has been collated and is now included in an asset inventory. This is being reviewed to identify additional maintenance needs at identified vulnerable sites.

The maintenance requirements of the culverts and drains are monitored regularly. The Highways Agency will continue with its cyclical maintenance activities including gully cleaning, cutting vegetation in the ditches, keeping outfalls and gullies clear of debris. Additional drainage defect repairs are programmed between Junction 11A and 11, together with filter drain stone replacement, further ditch vegetation clearance and excavation of ditches following winter vegetation clearance.

Motor Vehicles: Crime

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to make vehicle mileage readings taken as part of the MOT test available to organisations involved in tackling vehicle-related crime. [244692]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) currently has no plans to make vehicle mileage readings taken as part of the MOT test available to organisations involved in tackling vehicle-related crime.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the additional trains announced in November 2008 are to be allocated to the Northern franchise. [244364]

Paul Clark: The vehicles announced in November 2008 are included in the 1,300 additional vehicles announced in the rolling stock plan, published by the Department for Transport on January 2008 and updated in July 2008. The final numbers of additional vehicles will be decided in commercial negotiations with the train operator. Any change from the previously published numbers will be announced when a commercial agreement is concluded.

Public Transport: Disabled

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people unable to *(a)* work and *(b)* pursue higher education because they are unable to use public transport; and if he will make a statement. [243094]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has made no such estimates. However, the Government are committed to achieving an accessible public transport system, and we have already introduced regulations to ensure trains, buses and coaches are accessible to disabled people.

Railways

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the effect of operating train services in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sectors in respect of (i) innovation, (ii) use of new technology, (iii) customer services and (iv) provision of information to customers; and if he will make a statement. [244224]

Paul Clark: In 2004 our rail White Paper "The Future of Rail" recognised rail's status as a public service, specified by Government and delivered by the private sector. The £15 billion programme of investment in the network over the next five years, set out in last year's rail White Paper, is focused on concrete improvements in the number of services available, performance and reliability, safety, capacity and ticketing and fares.

Railways: Economic Situation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the economic downturn on rolling stock operating companies; and if he will make a statement. [245002]

Paul Clark: This is a business issue for the rolling stock leasing companies and is not for the Department for Transport to determine.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department's capital expenditure on rail freight facilities has been in each year since 1997. [243959]

Paul Clark: Since 1997, the Department for Transport, its predecessors and the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), awarded the following grants for rail freight facilities through the Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) programme and Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF).

	Grants (£)
1997	1,467,174
1998	2,437,920
1999	9,917,526
2000	24,936,743
2001	20,729,001
2002	11,294,172
2003	3,771,456
2004	0
2005	915,772
2006	493,681
2007	1,160,449

The SRA suspended the FFG programme for most rail projects in 2003, although grants continued to be available for aggregate-based facilities through the ALSF. FFGs were reintroduced for all rail schemes by the Department in 2007.

In addition to FFGs, the Department has announced over £200 million of investment schemes through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund, as well as £200 million provided for Network Rail to develop a Strategic Freight Network. The determination of Network Rail's outputs and access charges for 2009-14 also included £275 million for the upgrade of the Great Northern/Great Eastern joint line via Lincoln and Shaftholme junction grade separation. All these projects have particular benefits for freight and, taken together, provide the largest investment package for rail freight in decades.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding support his Department has provided for the development of rail freight facilities in *(a)* Halton, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* Cheshire in the last 12 months. [244208]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport provides match funding for rail freight facilities through the Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) programme. There have been no applications presented to the Department for an FFG for rail freight facilities in Halton, Merseyside or Cheshire in the past 12 months and as such no funding has been provided.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the rail freight carrying capacity of the West Coast Main Line. [244209]

Paul Clark: Network Rail has recently commenced work on the West Coast Route Utilisation Strategy. Rail freight capacity and enhancement options will be assessed as part of this workstream.

Renewable Energy: Transport

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 66-7WS, on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, (1) if he will reverse his plans to reduce the level of the obligation for the 2009-10 obligation period following the discovery of the drafting error in the 2007 Order; [244545]

(2) if he will provide financial compensation for biofuel producers materially affected by the drafting error in the 2007 Order. [244547]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Due to a discrepancy identified in the RTFO Order 2007 (SI 3072) an amount of fossil fuel cannot be considered when calculating how much renewable fuel a supplier is obligated to supply. However, the impact of this problem on the volumes of biofuel used and the extent of any shortfall in the UK will not be known until after the end of this obligation year.

The Government are currently consulting on the proposed solution to rectify the discrepancy issue for the next obligation year, as part of a consultation on slowing down the rate of increase of obligation levels. The consultation closed on 17 December and we shall take into account responses about the possible effects of the discrepancy on biofuel producers.

Roads: Accidents

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured in road accidents when they were passengers in taxis in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those children in each case were not wearing seat belts or using child restraints. [245577]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of casualties in reported personal injury road accidents for children (0-15 years old) that have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured when they were passengers in taxis in each of the last 10 years in Great Britain are given in the table:

	Number of casualties	
	Killed	*Seriously injured*
1998	0	4
1999	0	9
2000	0	7
2001	0	4
2002	0	3
2003	0	9
2004	0	2
2005	1	3
2006	0	1
2007	0	7

A taxi is defined as any vehicle operating as a hackney carriage, regardless of construction, and bearing the appropriate district council or local authority hackney carriage plates. The definition also includes private hire cars from year 2005.

Information on whether seat belts or child restraints were worn in road collisions is not collected.

Rolling Stock: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that any reduction of South West Trains services west of Exeter will be replaced by equivalent levels of rolling stock through other train operators. [245137]

Paul Clark: Discussions are currently taking place with First Great Western regarding services to be operated west of Exeter when South West Trains (SWT) services cease and an announcement will be made in due course.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the reduction in the rate of value added tax will have on the level of the Severn Bridges toll in 2009. [245210]

Paul Clark: I have approved the Highways Agency's recommendation that the revised toll charges scheduled for 2009 should reflect the reduction in VAT and await the concessionaires' formal agreement to this.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to *(a)* make, *(b)* lay before Parliament and *(c)* bring into force the Severn Bridges Toll Order. [245211]

Paul Clark: The Severn Bridges Toll Order 2008 is not required to be laid before Parliament. The Order will be made in December after the Concessionaire has given its formal consent to the reduced annual inflation increase which will reflect the recent reduction in the rate of VAT.

The Order will come into force on the 1 January 2009 as required by section 9 (2) (b) of the Severn Bridges Act 1992.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payment methods for the Severn Bridges toll are *(a)* permitted and *(b)* prohibited by the Severn Bridges Act 1992 and associated delegated legislation. [245212]

Paul Clark: There are no permissions or prohibitions in the Severn Bridges Act 1992, but the Severn Bridge Regulations 1993 determine the use of cash for payment of the tolls at the Crossing. The only permitted exception is where driver has participated in the concessionaire's pre-payment scheme.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of procurement and installation of *(a)* one reactive speed warning sign, *(b)* one fixed safety camera and *(c)* a system of time over distance speed cameras. [241572]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 December 2008]*: The Department has made the following estimates of vehicle activated signs and fixed speed cameras.

Date of estimate	*Measure*	*Cost (£)*
23 April 2007	Vehicle activated sign	[1]7,000
23 April 2007	Fixed speed camera	40,000

[1] This excluded provision of an electrical supply (which can be relatively significant in rural locations).

Time over distance cameras cover a length of road, rather than a particular spot as with fixed speed cameras. The cost per kilometre of installing a time over distance camera system depends on a number of variables including the number of junctions present and the road environment. At present only one supplier has a model type approved for enforcement, but type approval is ongoing for a further three systems, including two from new suppliers.

We do not have any estimate for the average cost of a time over distance camera system.

Tolls: Greater London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the implications for London's transport budget of removing the western extension of the congestion charge zone; and if he will make a statement. [243535]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. Government agreed a generous, long-term funding settlement with Transport for London last year and it is now for them to manage their estate, policies and priorities within that funding envelope.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) offered different types of severance terms to *(a)* VOSA directors and *(b)* other staff working at VOSA headquarters. [244265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: VOSA directors were offered voluntary early severance terms as their grade meant that there were no realistic opportunities for them to find other posts within the Agency. This situation did not apply to other staff.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243748]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 743W, to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) which provides information on the spend on Christmas functions in 2007-08.

Attendance at and hosting of hospitality events including Christmas parties by departmental staff may be recorded in local hospitality registers, in accordance with Ministry of Justice policy. The data are not collated centrally, and gathering information from local registers (including operational establishments) would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not fund Christmas parties although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such an event. At any time of year awards may be made through the reward and recognition scheme in line with departmental guidelines for team celebrations including modest parties.

Spend on entertainment could be provided across the Ministry only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on entertainment should be incurred in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that are based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Committal Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many committal hearings were held in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of committal hearings in each of those years. [243283]

Bridget Prentice: Committal hearings in the magistrates courts for the years 2003 to 2007 were: 51,492; 48,656; 47,939; 47,023; and 50,027. Cost data were not collated centrally prior to the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Services on 1 April 2005. Consequently, it is not possible to estimate the costs of committals in 2003 and 2004. The estimated costs of committals for the years 2005 to 2007 are: £5.6 million; £4.6 million; and £5.2 million.

Constitutions: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government has any plans for constitutional reform in Crown Dependencies. [244059]

Mr. Wills: There are no plans for constitutional reform in any of the Crown Dependencies.

Courts: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department of housing prisoners in court cells was in each of the last 24 months. [245177]

Mr. Hanson: No court cells are currently in use or have been since February 2008. Court cells were used to accommodate prisoners overnight between January and June 2007, and again in February this year. Invoices to the value of £2.54 million have to date been paid to escort contractors who staffed the cells.

Invoices are not month-specific and therefore we cannot reply on a month-by-month basis.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240466]

Mr. Malik: The Department records in its accounting system the total of spending on hospitality.

There is no departmental requirement to separately monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes and therefore no mechanism for this information to be recorded.

Expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance the Department's internal hospitality policy and is consistent with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The policy applies to all staff and specifies that no alcohol is to be provided as part of in-house hospitality (e.g. conferences and away days).

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1669-70W, on departmental public participation, when his Department will publish a response to each of the completed consultations still awaiting response. [245175]

Maria Eagle: Further to my answer of 26 November 2008, the following response papers have since been published by my Department: Pandemic Influenza—guidance on the operation of the coroner system; Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in family courts—a new approach; and Claims Management Regulation—fee levels for 2009-10.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) strives to publish its response papers in a timely fashion and will endeavour to publish the other outstanding response papers as soon as possible. The date of publication depends on a variety of factors, including the complexity of the subject matter, the number of responses received and securing clearance by Cabinet Committee.

Firearms: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act in each of the last five years, broken down by age group; and what the average length of sentence of those convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 was in each of the last five years. [244796]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the following table:

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 prescribed mandatory minimum custodial sentences for the offences of: Possessing or distributing prohibited firearms or ammunition and Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object where the offences were committed on or after the 26 January 2004.

The minimum sentence it set was three years where the offender was aged between 16 and 18 at the time of the offence and five years for offenders aged over 18 at the time of the offence.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice cannot determine the date the offence took place or the age of the offender at the time of the offence rather it is the date the sentence was passed and the age of the offender at the time of sentencing that is held.

Data provided in this answer shows all offenders given the mandatory minimum from 2005-07, while not all offenders sentenced in 2005 would have been eligible for the mandatory minimum it is not possible to separately identify those cases that occurred prior to 26 January 2004.

Those offenders in the juvenile (10 to 17-years-old) age band are all assumed to be eligible for the three-year mandatory minimum, similarly those in the adult age band (21+) are all assumed to be eligible for the five-year mandatory minimum, those offenders in the young adult age band (18-20) could potentially have been eligible for either minimum sentence so the numbers given between three and five years and over five years have been shown separately.

Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for mandatory minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1], 2003-07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Juveniles					
Total sentenced	69	60	36	17	16
Immediate custody	10	12	9	8	7
Received mandatory minimum[3]	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	4	5	2
Offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum (Percentage)	n/a	n/a	11.1	29.4	12.5
ACSL[4]	11.2	22.7	26.0	29.8	30.6
Young adults					
Total sentenced	121	122	59	46	40
Immediate custody	23	35	34	31	32
Received mandatory minimum—at least three years[5]	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	7	14	15
Received mandatory minimum—at least five years[5]	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	18	10	9
Offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum (Percentage)	n/a	n/a	42.4	52.2	60.0
ACSL[4]	18.6	39.5	45.5	43.6	42.1
Adults					
Total sentenced	713	564	294	217	208
Immediate custody	183	205	199	173	171
Received mandatory minimum[6]	[2]n/a	[2]n/a	124	126	132
Offenders sentenced receiving mandatory minimum (Percentage)	n/a	n/a	42.2	58.1	63.5
ACSL[4]	29.3	35.3	48.6	54.0	56.3

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of: Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

[2] The mandatory is applicable only for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004.

[3] Mandatory minimum for persons aged under 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is three years.

[4] Average custodial sentence length (months) excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[5] Mandatory minimum is dependant on age at the time of the offence. Data held by the Ministry of Justice only shows age at time of sentence so offenders in this age group could have been liable for three or five years. Offenders have not been double counted.

[6] Mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004 is five years.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Freedom of Information

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many freedom of information cases referred to the Information Commissioner *(a)* are under investigation by a caseworker and *(b)* are awaiting allocation to a caseworker. [244170]

Mr. Wills: Relevant figures are only available up to August 2008. In August 2008, 1,234 cases were being dealt with by the Information Commissioner's Office under the Freedom of Information Act. Of these, 640 were being investigated by a complaints officer and 594 were awaiting allocation.

This information has been provided by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Glen Parva Young Offender Institution

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the recent outbreak of sickness caused by a norovirus infection was first detected at HMP Young Offender Institute (YOI) Glen Parva; how many prisoners and staff have been infected since then; how many prisoners required medical treatment outside the YOI; how the infection was introduced into the YOI; when he expects the YOI to be clear of the infection; what effect the infection has had on (i) prison security and (ii) the provision of education and rehabilitation for the prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [245179]

Mr. Hanson: On 6 December, 16 prisoners at HMYOI Glen Parva reported sick with symptoms of sickness and vomiting. The following day this number had risen to 142. The illness was confirmed as being the 'norovirus' on 9 December. By 10 December, the number of prisoners reported to be suffering from this had peaked at 154.

Those prisoners who displayed symptoms had their movement restricted in order to reduce the risk of the illness spreading. All received medical attention and were cared for appropriately. No prisoner required outside medical treatment.

Since 6 December, there has been a slight increase in staff sickness across the establishment, however, only a handful of staff have reported to be experiencing similar symptoms to those described. The prison has worked closely with the local Environmental Health and the Health Protection Agencies in an attempt to establish potential causes and to reduce the risk of further infection. It is believed that the infection was introduced in the main prison population by either a member of staff or prisoner working from within the main prison kitchen.

In the initial stages some changes to the prison regime were necessary, however, as the outbreak occurred over a weekend period when the establishment operates a restricted regime, only prisoner association periods were affected. This was minimal and the prison was operating business as usual from 9 December. There has been no impact on prison security.

Every precaution is being taken to reduce the spread of the illness.

There are still some prisoners who are displaying similar symptoms, however, the virus outbreak is now over.

Gloucester Prison

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons were for the decision to downgrade Gloucester prison; if he will communicate those reasons directly to the prison's authorities; and if he will make a statement. [244145]

Mr. Hanson: Prison ratings are determined using a range of performance data which can then be reviewed and moderated to take into account further evidence. The data for Gloucester indicated some concerns in their performance on providing purposeful activity and releasing prisoners on temporary licence. For these reasons the rating of 3 was reached. Explanations for ratings will be communicated to establishments and I understand NOMS Agency is in the process of doing this.

Human Trafficking: Refuges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many beds are available for victims of trafficking at the Poppy Project; and how many new beds have been provided in each of the last five years; [243311]

(2) how many victims of trafficking have been refused a place at the Poppy Project due to a lack of available beds in each of the last five years; [243313]

(3) what the occupancy levels were of the Poppy Project in each of the last five years. [243314]

Maria Eagle: The Government have funded the Poppy project to provide specialist, high-level support to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation since 2003. During the piloting of the project between 2003 and 2005, the service provided 25 supported accommodation places on a rolling basis. Funding was increased in 2006 to provide 25 acute places, 10 resettlement places and an outreach service. In 2007 and 2008 the project was provided with an additional small flexible budget to help with capacity building so victims can be temporarily accommodated in other refuges where necessary.

The Poppy project has supported 401 women since it opened in 2003; 210 received supported accommodation and 191 received outreach support. A breakdown on occupancy levels by year is not available. Data on the number of victims that have not been able to access the Poppy project due it reaching capacity in the last five years are not available.

We are currently tendering for a national support service model for victims of human trafficking, which will include an increased number of accommodation places from spring 2009.

Legal Services Commission

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instruct the Legal Services Commission to reply to the letter dated 22 October 2008 from the Rossendale Citizens' Advice Bureau; and if he will make a statement. [240270]

Mr. Malik: As a result of an administrative oversight, the reply to the letter from Rossendale Citizens Advice Bureau was unfortunately delayed by the Legal Services Commission. A response to the letter will be sent out shortly.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment since 1997 have been released from custody. [245176]

Mr. Hanson: As of 15 December 2008, 304 prisoners who were given a mandatory, discretionary or automatic sentence of life imprisonment or a sentence to be served at Her Majesty's Pleasure on or after 1 January 1997 have been released from custody. No life sentence prisoner can be released until they have served the appropriate punitive period of imprisonment (the tariff period). The sentence planning and parole processes help ensure that such prisoners will only be released if the Parole Board is satisfied that it is safe to do so.

This figure comes from the NOMS Public Protection Unit Database. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether the risk presented by an offender sentenced to life imprisonment is such that it might be safely managed in the community.

Mentally Ill

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response his Department has made to those recommendations of the Foresight report into Mental Capital and Wellbeing which relate to his Department's responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [244132]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice was consulted in the preparation of the Foresight Report, "Mental Capital and Wellbeing" and welcomes its publication. The Ministry has a strong interest in the report's implications for dealing with offenders with mental health problems, and will work closely with the Department of Health and other Government Departments to ensure that the report is taken into consideration in developing relevant policies and services, including early interventions.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [245178]

Mr. Hanson: In the Ministry of Justice, figures are not held for former prisoners now employed by the Ministry of Justice. The policy on employment of ex-offenders recognises the important role that access to employment opportunities can have in the rehabilitation process for ex-offenders and in reducing re-offending. The Ministry will consider ex-offenders on their individual merits. Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar an individual working for the Ministry. This will depend on several considerations including:

The nature and seriousness of the offence

The relevance of the conviction i.e. the possibility of impetuosity of youth or immaturity and consideration that the individual's circumstances or character may have altered since to the extent that the conviction will not now be significant

The nature of the work and location

Offensive Weapons: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under 18 years have been convicted of offences related to the carrying of a knife in each year in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire since 1997; and what range of penalties were imposed. [243981]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of people under 18 years of age found guilty of "Having an article with a blade or point in a public place" and "Having an article with a blade or point on school premises" in Hertfordshire police force area, and the type of sentence given for each year since 1997 are in the following table. Information on court proceedings are centrally collected only for each police force area, therefore data for Hemel Hempstead cannot be supplied.

Number of people under 18 years of age found guilty at all courts, with the type of sentence given, for "having an article with blade or point in a public place or on school premises"[1], in the Hertfordshire police force area, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

		Sentence given			
	Found guilty	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*
1997	7	3	2	2	—
1998	5	2	—	3	—
1999	3	—	1	2	—
2000	3	—	2	1	—
2001	2	—	1	1	—
2002	4	2	—	2	—
2003	15	—	—	15	—
2004	20	3	—	17	—
2005	21	2	2	15	2
2006	19	2	1	16	—
2007	18	—	1	17	—

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* were sentenced following conviction for the offence of possession of a knife in a public place in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* began to serve custodial sentences immediately, broken down by length of sentence. [244981]

Mr. Straw: The available information is contained in the following table.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice show the number of offenders sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence. It is not possible to determine how many of those offenders began serving those sentences immediately as some may have been released having served their sentence on remand.

Total number of persons sentenced[1] and number given immediate custody for possession of a knife in a public place and length of sentences, 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total sentenced	3,341	3,788	3,548	3,518	4,303	5,269	5,311	5,802	5,957	6,284	6,121
Total immediate custody	372	550	534	499	589	766	755	803	965	1070	1060
Up to 3 months	302	429	410	357	418	542	525	543	602	601	621
Over 3 months up to 6 months	59	99	109	130	156	187	192	225	304	398	349
Over 6 months up to 1 year	1	11	8	5	9	23	20	26	33	45	38
1 year exactly	4	7	3	6	1	6	10	4	16	15	33
Over 1 year up to 18 months	6	2	4	1	4	7	5	5	9	8	12
Over 18 months up to 3 years	—	2	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	3	7

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

Note:

These figures have been taken from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Personal Injury: Consultation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr. Vaizey) of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 413W, on personal injury: compensation, when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation; and if he will make a statement. [241338]

Bridget Prentice: We aimed to publish a summary of responses to the consultation paper on the law of damages together with the Government's response to the consultation before the summer recess. Regrettably, we have not as yet been in a position to publish the response; however, we intend to do so as soon as possible.

Political Parties and Elections Bill

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the statement of the Minister of State of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 120, on the Political Parties and Elections Bill, whether his Department holds a copy of the letter from the affiliated trades unions. [241928]

Mr. Wills: The letter referred to in the statement was addressed by the then chair of TULO (Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation) to the General Secretary of the Labour party. The letter is therefore held by the Labour party, although Ministers and special advisers in the Ministry of Justice have seen the letter. The Ministry of Justice does not itself hold a copy of the letter.

Prison Service: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* payee, *(b)* reason for each payment and *(c)* amount paid to each payee was out of the total of £14,564,000 of special payments by the Prison Service referred to in the Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08. [243584]

Mr. Malik: To provide the full listing requested would require a review of all the individual cases, which could be carried out only at a disproportionate cost. However information on special payments cases is kept at a summary level and this is shown in the following table.

Description	*Number of cases paid*	*Value of cases paid (£)*
Prisoner		
Extended detention	102	239,607
Damaged property	270	14.236
Death in custody	11	108.815
Injury	255	2,176.941
Lost property	2,103	120.397
Other[1]	210	662.421
	2,951	3,322,417
Staff		
Damaged property	158	10,486
Injury	802	8,021,630
Hostage	3	315,738
Lost property	39	13,843
Other[1]	180	1,036,776
Tribunals	80	1,206,485
	1,262	10,604,958
Third parties		
Damaged property	17	17,671
Death in custody	8	258,670
Injury	46	294,494
Lost property	28	8.678
Other	47	34,075
Tribunals	2	22,710
	148	636,297
	4,361	14,563,672

[1] The 'Other' cases accounting for £1.7 million in 2007-08 have very varied descriptions and do not sit easily under any one particular category, for example these include:
Prisoners—disputes over categorisation and, breach of Human Rights cases;
Staff—bank charges following non-payment of salary, termination of employment; and compensation for adverse job references;
Third parties—'Agency' staff dismissal, cancellation of family or solicitor visits and disputes over length of use of hire equipment.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many invoices were paid late by the Prison Service incurring interest charges amounting to the £198,000 referred to in the Prison Service's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08; and *(a)* how much each invoice was for and *(b)* what the reason for the late payment was in each case. [243585]

Mr. Hanson: During the period 2007-08, the Prison Service encountered a number of system failures in the processing of invoices. This resulted in peak of 58,000 remaining unpaid. Of the £198,000 paid during 2007-08, £177,000 relates to three suppliers, two of which are food suppliers. The main three are:

£117,011 for NH Case Ltd.: for the period November 2002 to March 2008 and in the main relate to invoices held due to price variations between the price at purchase and the price at the time of supply or failure to register the goods received in a timely manner;

£52,150 DBC Food Ltd.: not specifically an invoice but a late payment interest settlement figure calculated as part of a contract settlement amount when ending a contract with the Prison Service; and

£8,365 EDF Energy Ltd.: an amount agreed between the Prison Service and the supplier to cover late payments made by a number of prisons.

The remainder is made up of various other small amounts which are unable to be detailed in the time available to answer this question.

To alleviate some of the issues being experienced with supplier payments, an emergency team was formed that worked to clear all invoices in back log. The Prison Service now has invoices taking on average two days to process from receipt. A new procurement strategy will be rolled out in April 2009 which should result in an improved buying power and supplier relationship.

Prison Service: Reorganisation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in his discussions on the Prison Service workforce modernisation proposals with the Prison Officers' Association; when he expects those negotiations to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [243617]

Mr. Hanson: We remain in constructive negotiations with the Prison Officers' Association and aim to conclude the formal negotiation this year.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responses he has received to the Prison Service work force modernisation proposals from *(a)* the Prison Officers Association, *(b)* the Prison Governors Association, *(c)* the Prison Service Trade Union Side, *(d)* the Prison Service Joint Industrial Council, *(e)* The Royal College of Nursing and *(f)* other trade unions and staff associations recognised by the Prison Service. [243619]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service is in continuing negotiations on work force modernisation with all trade unions and the Staff Association affected by the proposals.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have *(a)* instigated legal proceedings and *(b)* received compensation from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies under the Human Rights Act 1998; and what rights were concerned in each case in which legal proceedings have been completed. [245256]

Mr. Hanson: To provide the information requested would entail significant disproportionate cost requiring detailed examination of a very large number of files.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions (YOIs) had courses to help prisoners with (i) alcohol and (ii) drug misuse in each year from 1997 to 2007; how many currently have such courses available; and how many people are attending such courses in each (A) prison and (B) YOI. [244341]

Mr. Hanson: The provision of drug and alcohol interventions in prisons has grown rapidly over the last 10 years. It is not possible accurately to record which establishment offered each type of drug or alcohol intervention year on year over time period requested.

NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

The interventions are comprised of:

Clinical Services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing)—all prisoners have access to a range of clinical services.

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service)—specialist support and advice services that, following assessment, deliver psychosocial interventions, treatment and support. All adult prisons offer CARAT services.

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes—There are 114 drug rehabilitation programmes running in 99 establishments (see Table 1).

The number of prisoners engaged in drug treatment is in Table 2..

A range of interventions are available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

a number of prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in around 67 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

an accredited 12-step alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon;

a further four more intensive interventions Cognitive Behavioural Alcohol Programmes are being piloted at HMP Hull, Forest Bank, Glen Parva and Chelmsford;

for those prisons(ers) involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) a 90 minute alcohol awareness session has been developed; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 15-17 year old prisoners has a particular focus on alcohol.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collate figures centrally on the number of prisoners accessing services specifically aimed at their alcohol misuse.

Table 1: Establishments delivering drug treatment programmes

Establishment	*Drug Treatment Programmes Delivered*
Acklington	STOP
Altcourse	SDP AND STOP
Ashwell	PASRO
Aylesbury	PASRO
Bedford	SDP
Belmarsh	SDP
Birmingham	SDP
Blakenhurst	SDP
Blundeston	PASRO
Bristol	SDP
Brixton	PASRO AND SDP
Bullingdon	12 STEP; SDP
Camp Hill	PASRO
Cardiff	PASRO
Castington	SDP
Channings Wood	TC
Chelmsford	PASRO
Coldingley	12 step
Cookham Wood	PASRO
Dartmoor	PASRO AND 12 Step
Deerbolt	PASRO
Doncaster	SDP
Dorchester	SDP
Downview	SDP
Drake Hall	TC
Durham	PASRO

Table 1: Establishments delivering drug treatment programmes

Establishment	*Drug Treatment Programmes Delivered*
Eastwood Park	SDR
Edmunds Hill	PASRO
Elmley	PASRO AND SDP
Erlestoke	12 step
Everthorpe	PASRO AND 12 Step
Exeter	SDP
Featherstone	PASRO
Ford	SDP
Forest Bank	SDP
Frankland	FOCUS
Full Sutton	FOCUS
Garth	TC
Gartree	STOP
Glen Parva	PASRO AND SDP
Gloucester	SDP
Guys Marsh	PASRO
Haverigg	PASRO
High Down	SDP
Highpoint	AOD; PASRO AND STOP
Hindley	PASRO
Hollesley Bay	SDP
Holloway	SDP
Holme House	TC AND SDP
Hull	SDP
Kingston	PASRO
Kirkham	PASRO
Lancaster	PASRO AND 12 Step
Lancaster Farms	SDP
Leeds	SDP
Leicester	SDP
Lewes	PASRO
Leyhill	SDP
Lincoln	PASRO
Lindholme	PASRO
Littlehey	12 step
Liverpool	PASRO
Long Lartin	FOCUS
Low Newton	PASRO
Maidstone	PASRO
Manchester	SDP
Moorland	PASRO
Mount	12 step
New Hall	SDP
North Sea Camp	SDP
Northallerton	SDP
Norwich	12 step
Nottingham	SDP
Onley	PASRO
Parc	PASRO
Pentonville	PASRO AND SDP
Peterborough Male	SDP
Portland	PASRO
Preston	SDP
Ranby	PASRO
Reading	SDP
Risley	PASRO
Rochester	PASRO
Send	12 step
Stafford	PASRO
Stocken	STOP
Stoke Heath	SDP AND PASRO
Styal	SDP
Swaleside	12 step
Swansea	12 step AND SDP
Swinfen Hall	PASRO
Thorn Cross	SDP
Verne	12 step
Wakefield	FOCUS
Wayland	PASRO
Wellingborough	PASRO
Whitemoor	FOCUS
Winchester	PASRO AND SDP
Wormwood Scrubs	PASRO AND SDP
Wymott	TC

Table 2: Drug Interventions 2007-08[1]

Establishment	*Clinical interventions (detox or maintenance)*	*CARATs (substance misuse triage assessments)*	*Drug treatment programme starts*
Acklington	0	125	24
Albany	0	20	0
Altcourse	861	1,488	336
Ashfield[2]	55	0	0
Ashwell	0	240	84
Askham Grange	0	36	0
Aylesbury[2]	10	73	60
Bedford	594	1,012	240
Belmarsh	866	1,268	60
Birmingham	4,529	2,676	120
Blakenhurst	1,916	1,762	251
Blantyre House	0	0	0
Blundeston	0	262	84
Brinsford[2]	364	757	0
Bristol	1,370	1,060	120
Brixton	1,877	1,616	336
Brockhill	0	24	0
Bronzefield	1,168	1127	0
Buckley Hall	0	80	0
Bullingdon	958	1,234	425
Bullwood Hall	0	103	0
Camp Hill	0	73	96
Canterbury	0	100	0
Cardiff	841	834	96
Castington[2]	50	470	100
Channings Wood	0	52	56
Chelmsford	745	1,140	96
Coldingley	5	76	100
Cookham Wood	2	26	14
Dartmoor	0	114	117
Deerbolt[2]	0	359	80
Doncaster	1,727	2,190	240
Dorchester	574	669	120
Dovegate	0	143	0
Dover	0	0	0
Downview	0	38	31
Drake Hall	0	67	40
Durham	2,142	839	96
East Sutton Park	0	29	0
Eastwood Park	1,504	988	60
Edmunds Hill	0	162	60
Elmley	1,251	1,074	216
Erlestoke	0	81	60

Table 2: Drug Interventions 2007-08[1]

Establishment	Clinical interventions (detox or maintenance)	CARATs (substance misuse triage assessments)	Drug treatment programme starts
Everthorpe	0	219	171
Exeter	877	767	240
Featherstone	0	204	96
Feltham[2]	258	1,015	0
Ford	0	206	111
Forest Bank	914	1,280	240
Foston Hall	896	433	0
Frankland	0	51	19
Full Sutton	0	50	19
Garth	0	66	46
Gartree	0	81	31
GlenParva[2]	457	1,001	210
Gloucester	926	676	108
Grendon	0	66	0
Guys Marsh	0	155	96
Haslar	0	0	0
Hatfield	0	0	0
Haverigg	0	84	96
Hewell	0	0	0
Hewell Grange	0	12	0
High Down	1,192	1,410	78
Highpoint	0	333	118
Hindley[2]	0	191	70
Hollesley Bay	0	71	131
Holloway	1,131	1,282	120
Holme House	1,622	1,080	156
Hull	1,271	1,561	108
Huntercombe (Juvenile)[2]	0	0	0
Kennet	0	49	0
Kingston	0	10	24
Kirkham	0	137	96
Kirklevington	0	75	0
Lancaster	0	33	76
Lancaster Farms[2]	0	496	100
Latchmere House	0	53	0
Leeds	3,562	1815	120
Leicester	943	970	120
Lewes	709	750	96
Leyhill	0	163	60
Lincoln	1,540	934	73
Lindholme	0	142	144
Littlehey	0	161	59
Liverpool	1,520	1,702	96
Long Lartin	0	40	17
Low Newton	355	321	60
Lowdham Grange	216	38	0
Maidstone	0	112	96
Manchester	1,352	1,506	60
Moorland	0	208	78
Morton Hall	0	60	0
Mount	0	236	101
New Hall	1,749	913	120
North Sea Camp	0	160	111
Northallerton[2]	0	202	100
Norwich	732	750	78
Nottingham	1,102	972	120
Onley	0	398	90
Pare	364	386	96
Parkhurst	81	39	0
Pentonville	1,766	1,620	216
Peterborough	0	966	59
Portland[2]	0	206	80
Preston	1,280	1,328	240
Ranby	0	459	96
Reading[2]	96	419	100
Risley	0	144	96
Rochester[2]	0	156	80
Rye Hill	0	57	0
Send	0	44	60
Shepton Mallet	0	18	0
Shrewsbury	835	755	0
Stafford	95	93	95
Standford Hill	13	136	0
Stocken	0	110	72
Stoke Heath[2]	50	427	90
Styal	1,129	988	240
Sudbury	1	111	0
Swaleside	63	96	100
Swansea	806	530	124
Swinfen Hall[2]	0	152	80
Thorn Cross[2]	0	112	88
Usk\Prescoed	0	301	0
Verne	0	42	0
Wakefield	0	38	18
Wandsworth	2,100	1,701	179
Warren Hill (Juvenile)[2]	0	0	0
Wayland	0	191	96
Wealstun	0	197	120
Weare	0	0	0
Wellingborough	0	147	88
Werrington (Juvenile)[2]	0	0	0
Wetherby (Juvenile)[2]	31	0	0
Whatton	0	24	0
Whitemoor	0	53	20
Winchester	618	1151	192
Wolds	0	16	0
Woodhill	1231	812	0
Wormwood Scrubs	1,517	1,536	336
Wymott	0	75	81
Total	58,809	65,823	11,256

[1] Alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services for those with an alcohol dependency in prisons are in the main provided within the wider drug treatment framework. The proportion of prisoners accessing treatment services for alcohol is not disaggregated.

[2] Indicates establishments noted as a main function of Young Offender Institution during 2007-08.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prosecutions: Retail Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of selling tobacco to those under 18 years since the age of sale was raised to 18 years. [243905]

Maria Eagle: 13 people have been proceeded against at magistrates courts and 11 people have been found guilty at all courts of selling tobacco to a person aged under 18 in England and Wales, from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007 (the latest available). The age of sale was raised from 16 to 18 on 1 October 2007. Charging data are not collected centrally by my Department.

The statistics relate to people for whom these offences were the principal offences. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243971]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice has not, at this stage, developed plans on how to mark the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the royal household about how to mark the diamond jubilee.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the 10 most common *(a)* offences and *(b)* motoring offences were for which (i) men and (ii) women of each age group were (A) prosecuted, (B) convicted, (C) fined and (D) sent to prison in (1) Essex and (2) England and Wales in the most recent 12 month period. [242752]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for the 10 most common offences in England and Wales and Essex for 2007, broken down by result, sex and age group are shown in tables A1 and A2 as follows.

Available information on motoring offences for 2007 (latest available) is provided in tables B1 and B2. The data are based on the 10 most common offences proceeded against. Some of these cover more than one offence where the data reported centrally do not identify them separately.

Table A1: The 10 most common offences proceeded against at magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2007[1, 2]

Number of persons

				Males							
			All persons	Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
	No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
17000	1	Motor vehicle licences: failure to pay appropriate duty	4,355	—	—	—	—	3,468	3,126	3,080	—
19101	2	Television licence evasion	3,029	—	—	—	—	1,047	874	871	—
16901	3	Offences in relation to railways	2,591	22	12	10	—	2,056	1,725	1,719	1
10501	4	Common assault and battery	2,397	401	337	4	8	1,625	1,117	68	233
4600	5	Stealing from shops and stalls	2,024	217	207	18	3	1,259	1,194	254	344
14900	6	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less	1,353	368	310	3	—	835	709	172	43
8301	7	Failing to surrender to bail	1,152	67	31	3	—	925	420	208	69
12512	8	Harassment, alarm and distress	815	121	83	20	—	564	507	345	—

Table A1: The 10 most common offences proceeded against at magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2007[1, 2]

Number of persons

			All persons	*Males*							
				Aged 10-17				*Aged 18 and over*			
	No	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
806	9	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.	569	97	60	1	12	403	229	3	83
11606	10	Contravening the law relating to the regulation and control of fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels etc.	536	1	—	—	—	527	506	497	—
		Total	18,819	1,294	1,060	59	23	12,707	10,407	7,217	773

Number of persons

			Females							
			Aged 10-17				*Aged 18 and over*			
	No	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
17000	1	Motor vehicle licences; failure to pay appropriate duty.	—	—	—	—	897	805	704	—
19101	2	Television licence evasion.	—	—	—	—	1,982	1,742	1,741	—
16901	3	Offences in relation to railways	6	4	3	—	507	418	415	—
10501	4	Common assault and battery.	105	90	—	2	266	169	8	13
4600	5	Stealing from shops and stalls.	107	98	1	1	441	414	73	84
14900	6	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	43	32	2	—	107	79	36	1
8301	7	Failing to surrender to bail	18	9	—	—	142	46	19	4
12512	8	Harassment, alarm and distress.	47	39	—	—	83	65	35	—
806	9	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.	14	9	1	1	55	23	—	2
11606	10	Contravening the law relating to the regulation and control of fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels etc.	—	—	—	—	8	8	8	—
		Total	340	278	7	4	4,478	3,769	3,109	106

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table A2: The 10 most common offences proceeded against at magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales, 2007[1, 2]

Number of persons

				Males							
			All persons	Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
	No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
19101	1	Television licence evasion.	135,508	10	6	6	0	46,427	40,033	39,715	0
17080	2	Motor vehicle licences: failure to pay appropriate duty.	86,733	60	24	24	0	69,882	61,414	60,611	1
10501	3	Common assault and battery.	75,871	10,055	7,000	88	279	54,554	36,305	4,029	5,365
4600	4	Stealing from shops and stalls.	67,641	6,166	5,676	361	142	44,745	41,567	7,514	9,165
16901	5	Offences in relation to railways.	42,588	366	250	157	0	34,070	29,886	28,476	12
8301	6	Failing to surrender to bail.	41,341	2,959	1,327	264	17	32,336	18,171	8,467	2,176
14900	7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	30,416	9,908	6,669	247	9	25,632	21,063	5,093	1,050
12512	8	Harassment, alarm and distress.	27,683	4,636	3,544	651	0	19,346	15,407	9,176	10
17313	9	Any other offences peculiar to stage carriages and public service vehicles not classified elsewhere[3]	27,250	24	9	7	0	17,032	14,454	14,226	0
800	10	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.	23,811	3,634	2,667	15	366	17,180	11,733	413	3,600
		Total	558,842	37,932	29,251	1,817	815	364,214	299,063	177,717	21,302

Number of persons

			Females							
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
	No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
19101	1	Television licence evasion.	63	55	53	0	89,029	80,802	80,286	0

Number of persons

			Females							
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
	No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
17000	2	Motor vehicle licences, failure to pay appropriate duty	6	2	2	0	16,807	14,626	14,409	0
10500	3	Common assault and battery	3,662	2,852	15	62	7,619	5,095	430	344
[illegible]	4	Stealing from shops and stalls	2,712	2,447	89	36	13,998	12,873	1,866	1,985
16001	5	Offences in relation to railways	59	40	22	0	8,083	6,681	6,580	1
[illegible]	6	Failing to surrender to bail	580	281	35	3	5,464	2,734	1,083	251
14000	7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less	1,579	1,109	21	1	2,413	1,860	273	61
12512	8	Harassment, alarm and distress	1,387	795	90	0	2,596	1,979	915	0
17313	9	Any other offences peculiar to stage carriages and public service vehicles not classified elsewhere[1]	20	12	12	0	10,174	8,129	7,929	0
[illegible]	10	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm	960	718	2	61	2,031	1,282	28	178
		Total	[illegible]	8,289	321	163	158,213	136,061	113,799	2,820

[1] Includes offences under the Road Transport (International Passenger Services) Regulations 1984, sections 12, 24(2), 24(3), 25, 60, 66(a-e) of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981, the Public Service Vehicles (Condition of fitness, equipment, use and certification) Regulations 1981 and the Public Service Vehicles (Lost property) Regulations 1978.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences was the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B2: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates' courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2007

Number of persons

		Persons	Males							
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Speed limit offences	8,568	32	27	21	—	6,709	5,721	5,649	—
2	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	6,767	295	248	111	—	5,713	4,846	3,696	—
3	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	6,631	3	2	—	—	3,689	3,310	3,246	—

Table B1: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates' courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2007

Number of persons

			Males							
		Persons	*Aged 10-17*				*Aged 18 and over*			
No	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
4	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	3,816	268	222	32	—	3,055	2,552	1,200	—
5	Other vehicle registration offences (excluding fraud and forgery)[1]	2,193	17	9	7	—	1,774	1,287	1,263	—
6	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	2,189	34	33	3	1	1,849	1,783	1,218	111
7	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[3]	1,620	7	5	4	—	1,298	871	807	—
8	Other offences of neglect of traffic directions[2]	1,491	30	22	4	—	1,069	973	901	—
9	Careless driving - without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others	1,404	71	60	40	—	1,100	928	801	—
10	Vehicle test offences	951	30	19	3	—	808	603	243	—

Number of offences

		Females							
		Aged 10-17				*Aged 18 and over*			
No	Offence description	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
1	Speed limit offences	—	—	—	—	1,827	1,583	1,577	—
2	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	13	10	3	—	778	654	550	—
3	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	—	—	—	—	939	853	839	—
4	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	10	8	1	—	483	384	199	—
5	Other vehicle registration offences (excluding fraud and forgery)[1]	—	—	—	—	402	273	267	—
6	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	3	3	—	—	303	298	210	8

Number of offences

		Females							
		Aged 10-17				*Aged 18 and over*			
No	Offence description	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
7	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	—	—	—	—	315	222	210	—
8	Other offences of neglect of traffic directions[2]	1	1	—	—	391	365	359	—
9	Careless driving - without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others	2	1	—	—	231	199	188	—
10	Vehicle test offences	—	—	—	—	113	89	43	—

— = Nil.

[1] Includes offences under SS34, 35, 37, 42, 43 46 & 59 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994; S28A, S43C and S46A of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 as added by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002; and Reg 35 of the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003.

[2] Includes offences under SS35(1) & (2), 36(1) & 163(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988; S28(3) Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984; and S6 Traffic Management Act 2004.

[3] Includes offences under SS 13(1), 17(2), 18(4), 34(1), 71(1), 75(5), 76(1), 76(3), 83, 123(4), 135, 177 & Sch 1(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988; SS 3(1)(a) & (b) of the Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles) Act 1972; SS 35A(2),47(1), 47(3), 104, 112(4), 117 & Sch 12 Para 3(5) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994; Regs 3, 9, 22, 33, 83, 86 & 89 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; Regs 7, 8, 23 27 & 28 of the End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations 2003; and S4BD of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

Notes:

1. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The table shows the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are acclirate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B2: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales police force area, 2007

Number of persons

			Males							
		Persons	*Aged 10-17*				*Aged 18 and over*			
No	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
1	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	299,419	12,101	10,369	3,717	—	255,132	197,140	152,601	—
2	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	181,940	9,975	8,361	1,540	—	152,015	109,384	64,922	—
3	Speed limit offences	177,593	534	468	377	—	143,058	109,685	118,083	—
4	Vehicle test offences	125,996	2,518	2,518	241	—	109,562	119,509	27,273	—
5	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	90,028	102	40	25	—	72,463	63,477	62,340	—
6	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	78,031	180	119	54	—	61,630	41,345	37,872	—
7	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	77,834	1,358	1,303	198	—	66,248	63,693	46,514	2,849
8	Other vehicle insurance offences (except forgery etc)[2]	46,220	616	127	34	43	40,546	14,324	3,032	—

Table B2: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales police force area, 2007

Number of persons

		Persons	Males							
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
9	Failing to produce driving licence	36,145	468	120	28	—	31,877	15,846	5,969	—
10	Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence	34,579	1,457	1,292	21	391	31,501	28,743	1,783	10,099

Number of offences

		Females							
		Aged 10-17				Aged 18 & over			
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	520	452	167	—	31,666	24,771	21,207	—
2	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	467	397	79	—	19,483	14,268	8,537	—
3	Speed limit offences	23	19	17	—	33,978	28,568	28,356	—
4	Vehicle test offences	86	84	8	—	13,432	13,435	3,393	—
5	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	6	3	2	—	17,457	15,205	14,919	—
6	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	8	5	4	—	16,233	10,251	8,995	—
7	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	119	115	6	—	10,109	9,774	7,566	100
8	Other vehicle insurance offences (except forgery etc)(2)	22	1	—	—	5,036	1,561	272	—
9	Failing to produce driving licence	10	1	—	—	3,790	1,883	693	—
10	Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence	27	23	1	2	1,594	1,502	148	280

— = Nil.

[1] Includes offences under SS 13(1), 17(2), 18(4), 34(1), 71(1), 75(5), 76(1), 76(3), 83, 123(4), 135, 177 & Sch 1(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988; SS 3(1)(a) & (b) of the Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles) Act 1972; SS 35A(2),47(1), 47(3), 104, 112(4), 117 & Sch 12 Para 3(5) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994; Regs 3, 9, 22, 33, 83, 86 & 99 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; Regs 7, 8, 23 27 & 28 of the End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations 2003; and S4BD of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

[2] Includes offences under SS147, 154(2), 165(3), 170(4) & 171(2) and the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Regulations 1972.

Notes:

1. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The table shows the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences are less than complete.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices were issued for shoplifting of goods up to the value of £200 in each of the last four years. [243323]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with a PND for shoplifting (of goods up to a value of £200), from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) in England and Wales can be viewed in the following table. The offence of theft (retail) was added to the PND Scheme in November 2004.

Operational guidance issued to forces makes clear that PND disposal should normally be considered only for theft of goods up to a value of £100. PND disposal up to the cap of £200 would be exceptional and require the consent of the victim/retailer. The majority of PNDs are issued for theft of goods below £100.

Number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Theft (retail under £200), in England and Wales, 2004 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2004	2,072
2005	21,997
2006	38,772
2007	45,146

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures.

[3] The offence of theft (retail) was added to the PND Scheme in November 2004

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Taxis: Licensing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* sentenced to immediate custody for offences relating to unlicensed taxis in each of the last five years. [244599]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.167, and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60 and 62-68, in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data are unable to separately identify offences under section 47 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as the offences of Hackney carriage driver without a licence and Employing an unlicensed Hackney carriage driver under this statute are grouped together.

These offences do not carry a custodial sentence. The maximum penalty that can be given for these offences is a fine.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 S.167 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60 and 62-68, in England and Wales, 2003-07[1,2,3]

	Statute			
	Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60 and 62-68		Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sec 167	
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2003	337	270	259	194
2004	292	248	483	311
2005	283	233	597	422
2006	391	325	714	384
2007	378	336	753	458

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:

Town Police Clauses Act 1847 Sec 40-60 and 62-68.

Offences peculiar to stage carriage and public service vehicles.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 167.

Touting for hire car service without PSV operator's licence.

[3] Court proceedings data are unable to separate Section 47—Act as a Hackney carriage driver without a licence and Employ an unlicensed Hackney carriage driver—from the other set of offences under this statute as they are grouped together.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many organisations her Department has contacted asking them to pay suppliers within 10 days of receiving an invoice. [244695]

Mr. Khan: The Department has written out to its agencies and non departmental government bodies.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the feasibility study regarding the provision for the integration of migrants referred to on page 43 of the report, Managing the Impacts of Migration: a Cross Government Approach. [245547]

Mr. Khan: The 'Review of Migrant Integration Policy in the UK (including a feasibility study of the proposal for an Integration Agency)' was published on 11 June 2008. It can be viewed on Communities and Local Government's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/838994.pdf.

Community Relations: Religion

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what publications her Department and its predecessors have issued on faith communities since 1997. [245430]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the right hon. Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) on 29 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 689W. Since then, the Department has produced two further publications: "Face to Face and Side by Side—a framework for partnership in our multi faith society", and "Believing in Local Action" in association with the Church Urban Fund.

Compulsory Purchase: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on compulsory purchase: coastal areas, for what reasons the information requested is not held centrally. [244417]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 360W. CPOs made by local authorities are for a wide range of purposes and justified by site-specific considerations. We have no specific need to hold this information centrally and therefore the administrative cost of doing so is not justified.

Council Tax: Arrears

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is given to local authorities on the recovery of council tax arrears and procedures to be followed by private companies contracted to recover them; and when this guidance will next be reviewed. [244148]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government's predecessor department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister jointly published, with the Government Operational Research Service a Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report in 2004. The report looks at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners, in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection.

The report can be accessed via Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may use county courts to recover council tax arrears. [244150]

John Healey: No. Under Schedule 4 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 recovery of council tax arrears must be through a magistrates court. However, we are looking at reforms to allow billing authorities to transfer council tax debts from magistrates courts to county courts in certain circumstances.

Council Tax: Pensions

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 505W, on council tax: pensions, what proportion of local authority revenue went towards meeting pension liabilities and costs in the latest period for which information is available. [244484]

John Healey: The proportion of local authority revenue expenditure in 2007-08 that comprised employers' contributions to pension funds and other retirement benefits was 8 per cent. Information used to compile this percentage was published in the 'Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing England 2007-08 Final Outturn' statistical release on 28 November 2008.

Revenue expenditure defined here is that expenditure financed by grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services), council tax and authorities' reserves and is on a non-Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with how many faith-based organisations her Department has contracts to provide public services. [244840]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244606]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government is undertaking a wide range of activity to reduce its energy consumption.

Programmes include installing boiler efficiency devices, replacing older lighting with high efficiency models fitted with movement and daylight sensors, fitting further timers to local water boilers and chillers, and reducing the use of humidification plant where appropriate.

We are actively rationalising our estate to reduce our total footprint. To assist this programme, we are adopting flexible desking in our main headquarter building to ensure the most efficient use of available workstations.

To reduce the demand for heating and air conditioning, building temperature set points are being reduced in winter and increased in summer.

We are reducing the number of printers, photocopiers, and fax machines and replacing them with multi-function devices as part of our wider Sustainable ICT Action Plan. Other initiatives will include removing screen savers and improving the energy efficiency settings of existing devices.

We are assessing further opportunities identified in the advisory reports which accompany our display energy certificates and energy performance certificate, and we are also conducting a number of feasibility studies to assess options for server room heat recovery, reconfiguration of hydraulics to reduce water cooling requirements, options for ground source cooling and potential for voltage optimisation.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which occasions her Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the

Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if she will make a statement. [243045]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 350W.

My Department recognises the important contribution that the public can make in developing policy and carry out a wide range of activities which allow ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders in developing policy.

With regard to the period before Communities and Local Government was formed in 2006, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Under-Secretary my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 420W and to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Maidenhead on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1161W.

Fire Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to issue the guidance for independent qualified medical practitioners providing an opinion on permanent disability, fitness for regular work, qualifying injury and degree of disability document agreed with the Fire Brigades Union in June 2008. [244756]

Mr. Khan: The guidance is one element of a package which, earlier this year, the group reviewing ill health retirement arrangements in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme agreed should be issued to help employers and medical practitioners carry out their duties under the scheme. As issues relating to the interpretation of the scheme are currently the subject of an appeal, we do not propose to issue the guidance until the judgment of the Court of Appeal is available and I am satisfied that the guidance is consistent with it.

Home Information Packs

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make the fitting of a working carbon monoxide alarm a condition of a home information pack where a gas supply is present. [244106]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. The home information pack (HIP) provides prospective buyers with important information about a property early in the home buying and selling process. There is no power in the HIPs legislation to require sellers to make any changes or adaptations to their homes in order to be able to put them on the market.

Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been prepared for the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [243754]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the current economic climate, Government needs to act quickly and responsively to help support households facing difficult circumstances. As part of a much wider package of real help for home owners, the recently announced Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme will enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee to lenders they will get the payments back in return for them participating in the scheme.

Government are currently working closely with the lenders to agree the details of the scheme. Further details, including an impact assessment, will be published early in the new year.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who will be assisted by the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [244902]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the current economic climate, the Government need to act quickly and responsively to help support households facing difficult circumstances. As part of a much wider package of real help for homeowners, the recently announced Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme will enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee to lenders they will get the payments back in return for them participating in the scheme.

We are not setting a limit or a target for the number of households this scheme can help, either on a UK-wide or regional basis - this is a consumer and lender-led scheme, backed up by a Government guarantee. We want to see this scheme help as many households as possible.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants are available for the construction of low carbon buildings; and if she will make a statement. [245426]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are providing a number of financial incentives and support for the building of low carbon buildings.

The Government have introduced a time limited stamp duty land tax relief for new homes which meet Code Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The Low Carbon Building Programme is the Government's £86 million grant programme to encourage and support the development of microgeneration technologies in new buildings, further information is available at

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home/.

The new Homes and Communities Agency is responsible for a programme of investment with local areas and sub-regions which includes support for the development of low carbon buildings. It is a currently a condition of receiving HCA grant that new homes are built to higher energy performance standards than are in Part L of the current Building Regulations.

The Government have agreed also to provide pump priming funding for the zero carbon hub, which has been set up by industry to manage delivery of the programme for zero carbon homes from 2016.

Housing: Inspections

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home inspectors qualified to produce home condition reports were registered in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [244746]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, 874 home inspectors who are qualified to produce home condition reports were registered in England.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the number of registered home inspectors to meet consumer demand; and if she will make a statement. [244748]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. Home condition reports can be included in a home information pack on a voluntary basis.

Local Government Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of any additional resources required by local authorities in England as a result of the proposed extra responsibilities in relation to education and training for 16 to 18 year olds, as set out in the Raising Expectations White Paper; and if she will make a statement. [244173]

John Healey: The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded. Any policy which increases the cost of providing local authority services is subject to the new burdens doctrine and, where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or specific grants. The impact of the Education and Skills Bill, which received Royal Assent on 26 November 2008, has been taken into account.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she expects the Boundary Commission's review of judging bids for unitary status in aggregate to take into consideration the effect of local government structural changes on existing unitary authorities in Devon. [244750]

John Healey: While it is for the Boundary Committee to decide how it proceeds, only if an alternative proposal involves changes to the boundaries of an existing Devon unitary authority, do we expect the Boundary Committee's assessment of that proposal to include consideration of any implications for the existing unitary authority.

However, our request to the Boundary Committee of 6 February 2008 made clear that any alternative unitary proposals which we asked the Committee to make should involve changes to the boundaries of existing Devon unitary authorities only if, on the basis of evidence received, the Committee considers that they are essential.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to her Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if she will make a statement. [244013]

Mr. Khan: The Department was pleased to read the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being. My Department will be considering how this report impacts on housing support for older people and people with mental health problems as well as on the promotion of mental well-being within our own work force.

Mobile Homes: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons information on the number of *(a)* permanent caravans, *(b)* holiday caravans and *(c)* houses of multiple occupation in the catchment area of each principal seaside town in England is not held or available centrally; [244409]

(2) with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 771W, on mobile homes: coastal areas, what consideration she has made of the merits of collecting such information centrally; and if she will make it her policy to collect such information. [244817]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is the policy of Communities and Local Government to reduce local authority burdens in the collection of data. The Department sees no merit in collecting information on the number of mobile homes in coastal areas.

Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on multiple occupation, if she will publish a list of all those who have given evidence to the Building Research Establishment review of houses in multiple occupation legislation. [244418]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is unable to provide this information. Evidence provided to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) by stakeholders has been treated in confidence. Details on the number of responses and their views will be reflected in the final report on a non-attributable basis. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W, on multiple occupation: licensing, for what reasons 14 per cent. of local authorities are not using a range of tools to identify houses in multiple occupation being operated illegally without a licence. [244429]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold this information. The Department has funded Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) to support local housing authorities in England and Wales in implementing mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs). LACORS issues guidance, advice, and coordinates and disseminates best practice in relation to regulation of private sector housing.

The survey conducted by LACORs in August 2007 concluded that 86 per cent. of councils were using a range of tools to identify HMOs being operated illegally without a licence. LACORs produced good practice guidance for local authorities on tackling unlicensed HMOs in February 2008.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 129W, on multiple occupation: coastal areas, for what reasons the information requested is not held centrally; [244439]

(2) with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on multiple occupation: coastal areas, for what reasons information on the take-up of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation licences in seaside towns is not available centrally; [244419]

(3) with reference to the Answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 129W, on multiple occupation: coastal areas, if she will make it her policy to *(a)* collect and *(b)* hold centrally information on houses of multiple occupation in seaside towns. [244449]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does collect from local authorities their estimates of the total numbers of HMOs but only at local authority level. It is not possible to break these figures down below local authority level but in many cases the local authority statistics on HMOs will approximate to the seaside towns that they either contain or constitute. The latest figures are for April 2007 and these can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/sectionsfg.xls.

The Department also collects information on licensing of HMOs. Although this is at property level the Department is not currently in a position to produce statistics for seaside towns. This is under review. For the latest statistics on HMO licensing for the local authorities that contain or constitute seaside towns I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 372W-73W.

It is not possible to calculate take up rates for HMO licensing, for either seaside towns or local authorities, because there is no practical source for information at local level on the total numbers of licensable HMOs.

Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 129W, on multiple occupation: coastal areas, what consideration she has made of the merits of collecting such information centrally; and if she will make it her policy to collect such information. [244818]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today (PQs 244439, 244419, 244449).

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47W, on multiple occupation: licensing, what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of houses of multiple occupation that should be licensed in each of the next five years. [244820]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold this information. The Building Research Establishment (BRE) is carrying out a review of the houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing regime across all local authorities in England. This will include their estimate of the number of HMOs that are subject to mandatory HMO licensing. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on the circumstances under which they may refuse business rates relief under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to voluntary groups; and if she will make a statement. [244220]

John Healey: The Department publishes guidance to local authorities in the form of a booklet called: 'Non Domestic Rates: Guidance on Rate Relief for Charities and Other Non-Profit Making Organisations'. This is available on the Department's website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busrats/nndr/07.htm.

Chapter 7 specifies that local authorities should decide on the facts of each case whether to exercise its powers under section 49.

A copy of the guidance on hardship relief as been placed in the Library for reference.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on regeneration: coastal areas, if she will make it her policy to collect centrally information on the work of each regional improvement and efficiency partnership in respect of seaside towns. [244407]

John Healey: We do not currently have any plans to make it policy to collect centrally information on the work of regional improvement and efficiency partnership in respect of seaside towns. However in the future, emerging findings from progress reports on economic development will give the opportunity to analyse the work of RIEPs on seaside towns.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals her officials met during the consultation on the Government's Regeneration Framework document on seaside towns. [244408]

John Healey: The framework, 'Transforming places; changing lives: a framework for regeneration', sets out Government's vision for regeneration for the whole of England over the next 10 years.

During the consultation period, officials met the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) who invited members from their Seaside Network to attend the meeting. My officials have also taken opportunities to promote the draft framework since the document was launched in July and to engage seaside towns in the consultation exercise, through meetings of the RDA-led Coastal Areas Network and the main seaside town "umbrella" organisations, including the Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA), and the British Resorts and Destinations Association (BRADA).

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1503W, on housing: standards, what measures her Department is taking to reduce the considerable variation in regeneration between the principal seaside towns of England. [244821]

Mr. Iain Wright: The role and use of regeneration schemes are a matter for local decision making. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) became operational on 1 December 2008. We established the HCA to join up the delivery of housing and regeneration and it will provide the expertise and the skills to assist local authorities and communities to deliver the ambitions they have for their area.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1276W, on regeneration: coastal areas, if she will place in the Library a list of those who responded to the consultation on the regeneration of seaside towns. [244990]

John Healey: I have today placed in the Library a list of those who responded to the consultation on the proposed Regeneration Framework, "Transforming Places; changing lives": a framework for regeneration. The framework covers the whole of England—not just seaside towns.

Relative Needs Formula

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the relative needs formula developed by her Department includes a weighting for the number of *(a)* vulnerable adults and children, *(b)* former offenders, *(c)* drug addicts and alcoholics, *(d)* homeless people and *(e)* mentally ill people in an area; and what measures are in place to ensure that funding follows the client across local authority boundaries in such cases. [244848]

John Healey: The formula grant distribution model consists of a number of individual relative needs formulae (RNFs) for each of the main service areas that are provided by authorities—children's services, adults' personal social services, highways maintenance, police, fire and rescue, environmental, protective and cultural services, and capital financing.

The individual weightings used in each of these RNFs in the current year can be found in Chapter 4 of the Local Government Finance Report (2008-09).

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/lgfr0809s/chapter4.pdf

These RNFs estimate the need to provide services in an area relative to other areas and are based on socio-economic and demographic factors. Most RNFs consist of a basic client group, plus "top ups" to take into account additional need related factors such as deprivation, additional population, density and sparsity.

The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs, the relative ability of an area to raise council tax locally (resources), a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism. It is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service provided they meet their statutory duties. For these reasons, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service. Therefore, the funding formula does not include measures to ensure that funding follows individual clients across local authority boundaries.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which charities his Department has provided funding of more than £100,000 to in each of the last three years; and how much was given to each. [243139]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

Some of the Department's non departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are registered charities. These NDPBs are contracted to provide agreed outcomes. The funding provided to these bodies by the Department and predecessor Departments are as follows:

£000

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Design Council	6,179	6,069	6,035
Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)	82,773	109,764	—
Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS)	—	—	100,000

Note:
QIA was part of the merger to form LSIS in October 2008; hence there are no figures for QIA in 2008-09.

In addition to the NDPBs there are several bodies that are contracted to provide services.

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Lifelong Learning UK	1,299	13,081	19,500
NIACE	2,574	10,004	5,098
SKILL	100	160	100
PET	256	255	268

Key:
NIACE: National Institute for Adult Continuing Education
SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities
PET: Prisoners Education Trust

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) are two NDPBs with charitable status, however they are funded by levy, so attract no Departmental funding directly. However CITB have delivered Invest to Save Projects :

CITB Gas 2006-07 £160,000 (plus £113,000 capital), 2007-08 £103,000

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in each year since his Department's formation. [243740]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established under Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

In 2007-08 the Secretary of State hosted one official Christmas function for 50 people which cost £665. Departmental divisions do hold Christmas parties for staff to attend, for which staff must pay themselves.

The Department made no other spending on entertainment for staff.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 527W, on departmental air travel, if he will place in the Library the DIUS figures provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for 2007-08. [241677]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Therefore, details for air travel for DIUS prior to this date are not available.

DIUS currently operate two information systems, being those of its predecessor Departments: the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), now the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Consequently this information comes from these two different sources.

The total amount spent on air travel by the Department for 2007-08 was £257,219.

The details provided by BERR's information system does not record air travel cost according to the class of air travel taken. To disaggregate this expenditure would incur a disproportionate cost.

The data provided by DCSF's information system is as follows for 2007-08:

£11,074 on first-class flights;

£81,677 on business class flights; and

£37,541 on other class flights.

The Department's Executive agencies are the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO).

NWML records all airfare travel within its 'travel and subsistence' code. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of different classes of air travel used without incurring a disproportionate cost.

In 2006-07, UKIPO's information system recorded:

(a) Nil spend on first class flights;

(b) £88,509 on business class flights; and

(c) £82,877 on other class flights.

In 2007-08, UKIPO's information system recorded:

(a) Nil spend on first class flights;

(b) £62,433 on business class flights; and

(c) £58,469 on other class flights.

All official travel is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms since it was established. [244349]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Therefore, details regarding expenditure prior to this date are not available.

In 2007-08, the Department spent £554,000 on furniture and fittings. All furniture purchased in 2007-08 was supplied by British companies. All of this furniture was manufactured in the United Kingdom, except a batch of chairs costing some £10,000 which were manufactured in the United States of America. No furniture purchased by the Department was manufactured by Remploy.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242135]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not collect this information centrally in the form requested. Information on the number of staff taking degree or diploma courses funded by the Department is held locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The criteria for funding degree or diploma courses will be driven by Professional Skills for Government.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on advertising in each month since it was first established; how much his Department has spent on advertising each of its programmes in each month since its establishment; and how much of such expenditure was incurred in respect of each advertising medium. [243999]

Mr. Simon: The Department has funded the Higher Education Student Finance Campaign. Details are provided in the following table:

£

	TV	*Radio*	*Online*	*Press*	*Total*
2007					
November	1,209,482	340,964	124,284	114,853	1,789,583
December	12,518	88,585	23,791	89,444	214,338
2008					
January	—	122,362	82,183	17,834	222,379
February	—	—	20,517	—	20,517
March	—	—	23,117	—	23,117
November	1,180,000	193,734	90,541	24,443	1,488,718
December	—	—	20,143	6,268	26,411

All costs are gross media.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243570]

Mr. Simon: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240468]

Mr. Simon: All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The Department records details of some of its expenditure on hospitality in the UK and overseas separately in its accounting systems. In other cases, expenditure on official hospitality is aggregated with costs for events such as conferences and meetings or with general entertainment expenses, as well as being included in individual subsistence claims. Copies of invoices relating to all expenditure are retained by the responsible teams or, in the cases of science, research and innovation teams, in the former DTI central finance transaction processing unit.

Expenditure on alcohol for official hospitality is not recorded separately.

The basic rules governing entertainment are derived from Treasury authorities. There is a presumption that public money will not be used to purchase alcohol. However, exceptionally, if not providing alcohol to non-civil servants could lead to greater embarrassment for the Department, moderate amounts (in quantity and quality) may be purchased for formal evening gatherings such as meals or presentations. As with any expenditure on personal entertainment, the reasons should be both clearly defensible and well documented.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244389]

Mr. Simon: In the Department, all permanent and temporary employees are salaried, and the same policies are applied on starting salary.

Foreign Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Japanese students are studying in English universities. [245292]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006-07 academic year there were 5,195 Japanese domiciled enrolments at English higher education institutions. This figure comes from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and covers enrolments to all levels and modes of study. Comparable figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in late January 2009.

Further Education: Reorganisation

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what tasks he has asked each Government Office to undertake in relation to the proposed changes to the funding and management of further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [244172]

Mr. Simon: The White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver', set out proposals to ensure that the needs of learners (young people and adults) and employers are met by a more responsive system. Responsibility for the planning, commissioning and funding for education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds will transfer to local authorities, supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. For adults we propose to build on the demand led approach, including through the creation of a new Skills Funding Agency and strengthened advice and support services for adults and employers.

Government offices will have no direct role in funding and management of FE colleges in the new system. They will contribute to discussion of regional priorities and support local authorities in undertaking their new responsibilities. They are, and will continue to be, a conduit for information to flow from sub-regional groupings (SRGs) to DCSF. During the transition to the new system Government offices are playing an important role in supporting local authorities and working with other regional bodies to prepare. In particular they have been supporting the development of SRGs in preparation for the transfer of 16-19 funding from the LSC to local authorities. DCSF will be allocating funding via Government offices to SRGs to help build their capacity through this process.

More detail on the pre-19 proposals can be accessed via this link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/14-19nextsteps/.

More detail on the Skills Funding Agency can be found in the recently published 'Adult Skills Reforms: An Update', accessible via this link:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/raising_expectations.html.

Further Education: Sight Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure adequate funding is available for further education training courses for those who are visually impaired; and if he will make a statement. [244204]

Mr. Simon: Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) are a priority for public funding. This was recently reaffirmed through the Government's grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for 2009-10 (November, 2008). This sets out how the LSC will continue to develop the support and provision available to these learners, in line with the vision described in the Learning for Living and Work strategy that people with LDD have access to and experience of post-19 learning that is equal to that experienced by their peers without LDD.

Learning providers are required by the Disability Discrimination Act to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled learners do not experience barriers to learning. Such adjustments can be funded through the college or providers' mainstream allocation for adults and/or young people, or through the Additional Learning Support Fund (ALS) which provides higher levels of support to meet specific needs. Visually impaired learners are frequently the beneficiaries of this fund.

Each region will have an LLDD strategy describing what the priorities are for the region in line with an analysis of need. The combination of better planning to meet local need and the funding secured through ALS budget are the main steps to ensure there is adequate funding to meet the needs of those with visual impairment.

Further Education: Vocational Training

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure continued national funding is available to further education colleges which provide vocational training opportunities nationally. [244203]

Mr. Simon: As set out in the Government grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council (18 November 2008), overall investment through the LSC for the education and training of young people and adults is planned to increase from £11.6 billion in 2008-09 to over £12.1 billion in 2009-10. This will be focused on boosting greater participation in education and training, so more young people and adults are best placed to get and keep secure careers; and empowering colleges to work more closely with businesses with urgent training needs.

We will continue to increase investment for vocational training including: £925 million in 2009-10 through the Train to Gain programme which we are committed to expanding and improving so that to respond flexibly to employer demand; and over £1 billion in 2009-10 for apprenticeships for young people and adults.

As set out in the LSC Grant Letter/Statement of Priorities, from 2009-10, the LSC will operate a principle of having only one relationship with each FE college/provider, moving towards a position where they have only one funding contract. This means that FE colleges/providers operating in different regions will no longer have to agree multiple funding contracts.

Higher Education: Business

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage the greater integration of higher education with business and industry. [245005]

Mr. Lammy: The Government encourage integration of higher education with business and industry in many ways, a number of which are as follows.

The High Level Skills Strategy sets out why and how the Government are encouraging higher education institutions (HEIs) to help meet the demands of business through knowledge exchange, as well as by supplying skilled graduates and post-graduates and by providing high level skills learning for those in the workforce. For example, the 2008 Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) Grant letter allocated over £100 million of new resources over the spending review period to support new co-funded entrants, infrastructure development and wider employer engagement activity within HEIs.

The Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) gives every English HEI funding to build its capacity to work with business. This fund will reach £150 million per annum by the end of the spending review period. There is a business support element of quality-related (QR) funding to HEIs, which in 2008-09 totals £61.7 million. Allocation is based on the amount of research income institutions receive from UK industry, commerce and public corporations.

During 2008-11 the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) will co-ordinate a £1 billion programme in partnership with research councils and the regional development agencies (RDAs) with a key aim of helping businesses to access the research base. In addition to this, the TSB invests in business-university collaborations through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

Research councils have a strong economic impact agenda and support activities which encourage working with business, including significant amounts of collaborative research. RDAs will provide Innovation Vouchers to at least 500 businesses as a means for smaller firms to collaborate with knowledge institutions to help those firms boost their innovation.

Together, these measures will help the HE sector work with Government, business and industry to ensure that the needs of a 21st-century knowledge economy are met, even in challenging times for the global economy.

Learning and Skills Council: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Learning and Skills Council has taken to comply with the disability equality duty; and if he will make a statement. [243839]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Single Equality Scheme publication (April 2007) sets out how the LSC will fulfil its statutory duties to promote equality of opportunity and avoid discrimination. It also sets out specifically how it intends to meet and implement the requirements for a disability equality scheme.

Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on recognising employer-sponsor vendor qualifications, including IT vendor qualifications. [233992]

Mr. Simon: The Department is funding the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to run the Employer and Provider Recognition Programme, promoting the accreditation of high-quality training of employers in England. The Department is in regular discussion with the QCA about the programme and receive frequent reports on the progress of organisations towards gaining recognition as awarding organisations and accreditation of qualifications, including IT qualifications.

Railways: Engineers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of skilled railway engineers. [245139]

Mr. Simon: The Government work through Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to help promote skills to industry and support employers in closing skills shortages and gaps. GoSkills is the SSC with responsibility for rail engineering.

In common with all SSCs, GoSkills has developed a sector skills agreement (SSA) which identifies the sector's current and future skills needs. The SSA, which is UK wide, provides a clear platform for education and skills agencies and providers to work with the sector on helping meet those needs.

GoSkills have also produced their Sector Qualification Strategy which sets out the qualifications that the rail industry needs. Qualifications are regularly updated to ensure that they are fit for purpose and supporting the development of the skills the industry needs. The National Occupational Standards for Rail Engineering will be reviewed in 2009. This review will be driven by industry and will ensure that the industry-specific qualifications and all apprenticeship frameworks for rail engineering are refreshed and reflective of current best practice.

The partners in the rail industry have put in place a number of initiatives to increase the number of skilled staff in the industry.

Network Rail have established an award winning apprenticeship scheme using the industry standards. Metronet and Tubelines run major apprenticeship schemes. BIRSE engineering has launched a new apprenticeship scheme with West Anglia college.

There is an industry-sponsored Foundation Degree in Rail Engineering delivered by Sheffield Hallam university and the industry.

There are three centres of vocational excellence (CoVE). CoVEs demonstrate expertise in delivering specific types of vocational education and training. CoVEs often have college links and close business partnerships, and aim to produce specialists in a wide range of vocational areas to meet the needs of the marketplace. A celebration of the 10,000th NVQ achieved for all rail disciplines was held in the House of Commons dining room on 4 December for Four Counties Training CoVE and partners.

Student Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time equivalent student places have been created in each year since 1992. [233991]

Mr. Lammy: Information is not available on the number of full-time equivalent student places that have been created in each year since 1992. However information is available on the increase in the number of students enrolled on courses at English higher education institutions and is shown in the following tables.

Figures are not available on a comparable basis prior to the 1994/95 academic year.

The latest period for which figures are available is the 2006/07 academic year; figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in late January 2009.

Enrolments[1] and increases to higher education courses by mode of study, English higher education institutions, 1994/95 to 1997/98 academic years

		Year on year increase			Year on year increase	
Academic year	Full-time enrolments	Number	Proportion (percentage)	Part-time Enrolments	Number	Proportion (percentage)
1994/95	870,465	—	—	406,700	—	—
1995/96	900,030	29,565	3.4	509,670	102,970	25.3
1996/97	922,890	22,860	2.5	508,870	-800	-0.2
1997/98	943,965	21,070	2.3	521,810	12,945	2.5

[1] Figures cover enrolments from all domiciles to undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

[2] The large increase in part-time enrolments in the 1995/96 academic year is due to three factors—two institutions transferred from the FE sector to the HE sector, a number of nursing colleges merged with HEIs and several institutions recorded certain types of part-time study for the first time.

[3] The decrease in part-time enrolments in the 1996/97 academic year is due to the Open University providing a split between part-time first year students and other year students for the first time. Students taking Open University credits were all returned as studying at undergraduate level, although some were studying postgraduate level courses. This has the effect of reducing part-time postgraduate numbers.

Note:

1. Figures are on a DfES snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and exclude students on writing up, sabbatical and dormant modes of study.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

From the 1998/99 academic year and onwards the methodology for counting students was changed from a snapshot (census date) to a whole year count (students active in the academic year) in order to better record students following non traditional enrolment patterns. Therefore the figures in the following table are on a different basis to those in the aforementioned table.

Enrolments[1] and increases to higher education courses by mode of study. English higher education institutions. 1998/99 to 2006/07 academic years

		Year on year increase			*Year on year increase*	
Academic year	*Full-time enrolments*	*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Part-time Enrolments*	*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*
1998/99	967,130	—	—	631,160	—	—
1999/2000	968,640	1,510	0.2	654,975	23,810	3.8
2000/01	984,150	15,510	1.6	672,550	17,580	2.7
2001/02	1,018,115	33,965	3.5	708,725	36,175	5.4
2002/03	1,072,170	54,055	5.3	735,495	26,765	3.8
2003/04	1,111,540	39,370	3.7	756,880	21,385	2.9
2004/05	1,135,780	24,245	2.2	760,045	3,165	0.4
2005/06	1,173,550	37,770	3.3	762,870	2,825	0.4
2006/07	1,187,635	14,085	1.2	769,555	6,685	0.9

[1] Figures cover enrolments from all domiciles to undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Note:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Train to Gain Programme: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people living in Enfield North constituency have participated in the Train to Gain programme in each of the last three years. [243829]

Mr. Simon: There were 310 people living in the parliamentary constituency of Enfield North who started a Train to Gain programme in 2006/07.

Notes:

1. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006/07 academic year. The aforementioned figure therefore cover Train to Gain achievements over a 16-month period.
2. Fully audited figures are not yet available for 2007/08.
3. Constituency is based on learner's home postcode.

Train To Gain Programme: Halton

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people living in Halton have participated in the Train to Gain programme in each of the last three years. [244206]

Mr. Simon: There were 480 people living in the parliamentary constituency of Halton who started a Train to Gain programme in 2006-07.

Notes:

1. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006-07 academic year. These figures therefore cover Train to Gain achievements over a 16-month period.
2. Fully audited figures are not yet available for 2007-08.
3. Constituency is based on learner's home postcode.

Train to Gain Programme: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in Oxfordshire that will receive extra Train to Gain funding as announced in the Pre-Budget Report. [240397]

Mr. Simon: I recently announced that I have relaxed the funding rules for Train to Gain for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To help get them the training that they need, these new flexibilities offer funding for selected units and thin qualifications in business critical areas, and more funding for qualifications at level 2 and 3 for those who already have qualifications at that level. We are promoting this new offer to all SMEs. We will also continue to encourage larger employers to access Train to Gain to help increase the skills of their staff and the productivity of their business.

It is not possible to predict the level of take up particular to a local authority as it is dependent on employer demand. LSC data indicate that during the 2006-07 academic year, 41,700 SMEs were engaged by Train to Gain, representing 83 per cent. of all employers engaged.

Vocational Training

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that people who lose their jobs in the current economic downturn will have the necessary skills and qualifications to re-enter employment. [243828]

Mr. Simon: The Government announced in October 2008 that we are setting aside £100 million from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to deliver integrated employment and skills support for those facing redundancy. The pre-Budget report on 24 November announced that the funds available now total £158 million and form part of a wider package on employment to support retraining, skills development and job search for those facing redundancy or already looking for work.

Support will be carefully targeted to help, for example, people from sectors experiencing significant job losses and will help the Learning and Skills Council, with local colleges and training providers working closely with Jobcentre Plus to make sure those people most affected get access to the services they need.

The Department is working closely with DWP and BERR to develop the package of support for people facing redundancy and further details will be announced shortly.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been provided from each applicable funding stream for *(a)* universities and *(b)* further education colleges to enable people made redundant to re-train. [244485]

Mr. Simon: Universities are playing a central role in supporting businesses and individuals. Universities UK have recently published a brochure which summarises the help universities are offering to individuals and businesses during the downturn. These activities are being funded from existing budgets, and from the £120 million savings made by universities as a result of the reduction in VAT.

Planned investment for adult participation in further education and skills will increase to £3.3 billion in 2009-10. The Government investment strategy underpinning this investment includes specific measures designed to help people who have been made redundant to retrain. This includes: providing more flexibility for colleges and providers in the use of funding for courses below level 2 (equivalent of five good GCSEs) to enable them to respond to demand from learners looking to get back into employment; and exploring ways to reward colleges and providers who deliver sustainable employment outcomes for learners.

As announced in the pre-Budget report in November 2008, £158 million of European Social Funds will be available over the next three years, £79 million of which will be matched with LSC funding. This will help support people currently facing redundancy and those looking for work to retrain and develop their skills so they can quickly move back into sustainable employment. Details of the package of support will be announced shortly.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent by the Government Equalities Office on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms since it was established. [244358]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not made any purchases of furniture.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will make it her policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in the Government's Equalities Office who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244382]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has already adopted this policy and employs some temporary staff on fixed term contracts (typically between three and six months) at the same rate of pay as permanent employees in the same grade.

Other temporary staff are employed from agencies for shorter periods. In these cases the GEO negotiates a rate for the job dependent upon the knowledge and experience available.

Homosexuality: Austria

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government's submission to the European Court of Human Rights on rights for same-sex couples in Austria; and if she will make a statement. [244160]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

I have placed in the Library a copy of the submissions made by the United Kingdom in the case of Schalk and Kopf *v.* Austria.

The main purpose of the UK intervention in this case is to argue that the right to marry under Article 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights does not require marriage to be made available to same-sex couples. This remains the Government's firmly held position.

A further argument in this case relies on Article 14 (the prohibition on discrimination in the protection of the Convention rights) read with Article 8 (the right to respect for private and family life). These provisions have been held not to require states to provide formal legal status for same-sex relationships. The Government chose to introduce civil partnerships for reasons of social justice and equality, instead of being obliged to do so.

As my noble friend Lord Bach has noted, we have agreed to reconsider the technical aspect of the intervention on the meaning of "family life" and article 8, and will clarify our position with the Court on that point.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240791]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform awards non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

1. Special bonuses to recognise performance, in particularly, demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

2. Annual performance awards paid to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available, the number of staff receiving these awards, and total amount of bonuses for which this information can be provided is in the following table.

	Special bonus		*Performance awards*	
Financial year[1]	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*
2007-08[2]	1,238	693,386	1,065	[3]2,265,502

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] In 2007-08, the total value of bonuses paid was approximately 1.5 per cent. of the total Department's paybill.

[3] Includes staff who were transferred from DTI to DIUS as part of the June 2007 machinery of government changes as these staff received a DTI/BERR pay award in 2007. Does not include those staff transferred into BERR from Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the June 2007 machinery of government changes as these staff received Cabinet Office and DCLG pay awards respectively in 2007.

Note:

The special bonuses and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's paybill costs each year. For the SCS, the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

Welfare State: Regional Development Agencies

Rob Marris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what responsibilities the regional development agencies will have under the proposals set out in the Raising Expectations White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [244174]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver', set out proposals to ensure that the needs of learners (young people and adults) and employers are met by a more responsive system. Responsibility for the planning, commissioning and funding for education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds will transfer to local authorities, supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. For adults we propose to build on the demand led approach, including through the creation of a new Skills Funding Agency and strengthened advice and support services for adults and employers.

As part of the changes identified in the "Raising Expectations" local authorities will work together in sub-regional groups to commission provision for 16 to 19-year-olds, developing a commissioning plan that will identify how learning will be commissioned. In addition to developing sub-regional groups, key players including: Regional Development Agencies; Government Offices; local authorities; and the new Young People's Learning Agency and Skills Funding Agency will come together in Regional Planning Groups. The role of the Regional Planning Group will be to scrutinise the local plans that have been developed to ensure they are coherent, can be funded within the regional budget and will deliver the 14-19 entitlement. The Regional Development Agencies will help to ensure that the plans for young people deliver what is needed by employers, taking account of the regional economic strategy and regional skill needs. Our assumption is that the Regional Development Agencies will co-chair the Regional Planning Group with local authorities.

In respect of adult skills, the Skills Funding Agency will work with Regional Development Agencies and Jobcentre Plus to determine the regional skills strategy. Regional Development Agencies will also manage the new integrated brokerage service for employers that includes skills.

More detail on the Skills Funding Agency, together with information on the roles and responsibilities of key players in the adult skills landscape, can be found in the recently published 'Adult Skills Reforms: An Update', accessible via the following link:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/raising_expectations.html

More detail on the pre 19 proposals can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/14-19nextsteps/

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cancer

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of *(a)* pancreatic and *(b)* liver cancer there were in each (i) primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority area of England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [240283]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 18 December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of (a) pancreatic and (b) liver cancer there were in (i) each primary care trust and (ii) strategic health authority of England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [240283]

The number of newly diagnosed cases for each year from [illegible] to 2006 (latest available year) for (i) each primary care tru[illegible]d (ii) strategic health authority for England, and by local [illegible]th board for Wales are given in Table 1 for (a) pancreatic cancer and Table 2 for (b) liver cancer; these have been placed in the House of Commons library.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243044]

Mr. Watson: In respect of citizen's juries I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W.

Information on the numbers of randomly drawn panels of people convened since 2000 is not collated centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police services and *(b)* local authorities have issued a notice of proposal to designate an alcohol disorder zone. [243321]

Jacqui Smith: To date no police services or local authorities have issued a notice of proposal to the Home Office to designate an alcohol disorder zone.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect completion of promotion and event risk assessment forms under the Licensing Act 2003 has had on levels of violence at live performances. [243677]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This form is not a requirement under the Licensing Act 2003, and the Home Office does not hold any data on this subject.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to increase the number of prosecutions brought for selling alcohol to a drunken person. [243026]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The majority of people who drink enjoy alcohol sensibly, but we are determined to take action to reduce the health and social harms caused by those who do not.

The Government have recently announced actions to combat this problem. These include; a new mandatory code of practice to target the most irresponsible retail practices, a £3 million cash injection for CDRPs for enforcement activities in 198 areas. A further £1.5 million has been allocated to our priority areas where we are working closely with partnerships, making sure they make full use of all the powers available to them to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder.

We have introduced new powers including alcohol disorder zones, directions to leave and expedited license reviews, plus we are encouraging greater use of existing powers such as designated public place orders to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder.

In addition a responsible alcohol sales campaign took place in November and December 2007 which focused on enforcing the law concerning the sale of alcohol to those persons who were drunk. The campaign took place over four weekends and involved 30 police force areas. This campaign is part of a sustained drive by police and trading standards, as well as the alcohol retail industry, to clamp down on irresponsible retailers.

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact on the deployment of police resources of the introduction of a more liberal licensing regime for alcohol sales. [243056]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A review of the Licensing Act 2003 was published in March 2008 and revealed a mixed picture. The change in opening hours has not led to the widespread problems some people feared. Overall, crime and alcohol consumption are down. However alcohol-related violence has increased in the early hours of the morning and some communities have seen a rise in disorder. Our main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms, but people are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems, and that there is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour.

Since the publication of the review, we have taken a number of actions. We have launched regional workshops for front-line practitioners, to ensure that they have the knowledge and confidence to use their existing powers under the Licensing Act. Two workshops have been held so far, with a further 11 scheduled to be held from January to March 2009.

Additionally, we have announced that we will legislate for a new, mandatory code of practice. This will contain some compulsory national conditions, banning the most irresponsible practices and promotions which encourage people to drink excessively, or promote a binge-drinking culture. This will not affect the majority of businesses, small or large, who behave responsibly—but will target those that don't.

Further, the Government are funding a £4.5 million enforcement campaign, in addition to existing resources from the police, local authorities, and others, focused on 40-50 priority areas and led by ACPO Commander Simon O'Brien. There is additional funding for the 20 priority PCT areas, and a £10 million investment in national awareness campaigns.

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions there have been for animal cruelty in each of the last five years. [243771]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences of animal cruelty are summary offences which do not form a part of the arrests collection.

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selected offences of animal cruelty in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007, the latest available, are shown in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences of animal cruelty, England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

	Number
2003	1,106
2004	1,117
2005	1,227
2006	1,164
2007	1,206

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Anti-social Behaviour

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities in England and Wales have applied to make *(a)* an alcohol disorder zone, *(b)* a section 30 dispersal order and *(c)* a designated public place order in each year since each was introduced. [243153]

Jacqui Smith: There are currently no alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) that the Home Office have been notified of. ADZs were only commenced on 5 June 2008 and require a number of steps to be taken before a full ADZ is implemented.

Between January 2004 and 31 March 2006, the police have used the power in section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to disperse unruly groups in over 1,000 designated areas. Figures are not available broken down by year. Figures for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 are due to be published shortly.

The Home Office has been informed that 654 designated public place orders (DPPO)s have been implemented throughout England and Wales. This figure is broken down by year as follows; three in 2001, 68 in 2002, 79 in 2003, 99 in 2004,103 in 2005, 133 in 2006, 101 in 2007 and 68 in 2008.

A full list of the councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link which includes commencement date.

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Assets Recovery Agency: Finance

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget was of the Assets Recovery Agency in its final year of operation. [243931]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The total financial resource allocation for the Assets Recovery Agency for 2007-08 was £18.007 million. This comprised a base budget £15.55 million and £2.45 million rolled forward using end-year flexibility from previous years.

Criminal Records Bureau

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who had already obtained Criminal Records Bureau clearance were required to apply for a further clearance after changing jobs in each of the last five years. [243593]

Meg Hillier: Disclosures are primarily designed to be used by an employer at the point of recruitment for a particular position. Ultimately it is for each employer, and not the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), to decide whether a new disclosure should be applied for, bearing in mind their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements.

There are a number of reasons why an employer may not wish to accept a disclosure that has been processed for a previous employment position, including:

The disclosure may not be at the right level (there are two different levels of CRB check; standard & enhanced);

Information revealed through a CRB check reflects the information that was available at the time of its issue—a person may have committed a crime in the intervening period;

The disclosure process may also include a search to establish whether an individual is subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, or a check against the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults PoCA and PoVA) lists.

The CRB does not hold data to show the number of people who are required to apply for a further clearance after changing jobs.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will estimate the financial effects on the economy from effects on the length of time taken to complete Criminal Records Bureau checks in the last 12 months; [243807]

(2) if she will estimate the average financial effects on individual employees caused by the length of time taken to complete Criminal Records Bureau checks in the last 12 months. [243808]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not record the financial loss to the economy or individual employees arising from delays in the completion of CRB checks and therefore this information is not available.

The CRB cannot assess the financial impact of any delays within its service for the following reasons:

Not all individuals checked will be employed.

Not all individuals that experience a delay will request an ex gratia payment.

The CRB is unaware of what other pre-recruitment checks are being undertaken by employers and whether these are completed prior to the issue of a disclosure.

The CRB has no way to assess the financial impact a new employee would make in any industry.

Delays in the CRB Disclosure Service do not disbar an individual from being employed under supervision.

The Police Act gives the employer the eligibility to apply for a disclosure for a potentially new employee but does not state that there is a requirement to do so.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. In the financial year 2007-08, the CRB exceeded these targets, issuing 99.7 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 93.4 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

Criminal Records Bureau: Checks

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what compensation scheme is in place for *(a)* teachers and *(b)* other educational staff who require Criminal Records Bureau clearance who have experienced loss of earnings while their application for a criminal record check was under consideration by the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last four years; [244627]

(2) how much compensation has been paid by the Criminal Records Bureau for delays in processing criminal record checks to *(a)* applicants, *(b)* employers and *(c)* others in each of the last four years; to which types of disclosures such payments related; and how many (i) applicants and (ii) employers were so compensated in each year. [244628]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not pay compensation, the payments CRB makes are on an ex gratia basis, as an award to reinforce the sincerity of an apology.

The CRB is bound by the Treasury Guidelines and must endeavour to put all individuals, not just those working within the education sector, back into the position they would have been but for any maladministration on the part of the Bureau. This scheme is called a redress scheme. The CRB award redress if they have not followed their procedures and it has caused the applicant a loss.

The number of cases requesting redress and the amount paid by the CRB to applicants for delays in processing CRB checks in each of the last four years is detailed in the following table.

	Cases received requesting redress	*Amount paid in redress (£)*
2005	513	111,995.56
2006	559	52,733.97
2007	571	254,590.07
2008 (up to 30th November 2008)	823	154,420.55

The CRB does not provide redress to employers or organisations registered with them to verify disclosure applications.

The CRB does not separately record the number of individuals that have received redress or the number of each type of disclosure the redress payments were made against. To obtain this level of detailed analysis would involve manually re-processing source records and this could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Criminal Records Bureau: Complaints

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) received on the time taken to process applications for CRB clearance in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last five years. [243592]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) received 3,733 complaints on the time taken to process applications in the last 12 months up until November 2008. During this same period the CRB issued 3.6 million disclosures.

The CRB did not separately record delay complaints before April 2007. To obtain this level of detailed analysis would involve manually re- processing source records and this could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

The CRB endeavours to issue both standard and enhanced disclosures in the shortest time possible. Some disclosures do take a matter of days, while others can take considerably longer. There are a number of factors that can affect the timely completion of checks, including but not restricted to the timely submission of application forms by registered bodies to the CRB; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence on conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units at the police forces involved in the enhanced disclosure process.

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* sexual assault and *(b)* domestic violence were recorded in each month of (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [243547]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Police forces in England and Wales are asked to provide monthly cumulative data for use in the Home Office's quarterly and annual crime statistics publication. However, the validation processes relate to quarterly data rather than monthly and therefore quarterly data for all sexual offences are given in the table. Quarterly data for July to September 2008 will be published on 22 January 2009.

From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Domestic violence statistics are based on British Crime Survey interviews, which include crimes not reported to the police.

Sexual offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

Quarter	*Number of offences*
January to March 2007	12,732
April to June 2007	14,129

Sexual offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

Quarter	*Number of offences*
July to September 2007	14,361
October to December 2007	12,067
January to March 2008	12,983
April to June 2008	14,307

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on tackling domestic violence; and if she will make a statement. [244494]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to tackling domestic violence. We have a cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan which provides a strategic framework to address domestic violence to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice while providing the best possible help for victims and their children.

The Plan covers specific initiatives such as the expansion of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme; the roll-out nationally of multi-agency risk assessment conferences and supporting the establishment of independent domestic violence advisers.

Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to commence section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; [244477]

(2) for what reason section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 has not been implemented. [244478]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* We do not have a commencement date for S12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 but are still committed to its implementation and continue to look at ways to take this forward across Government.

Driving Under Influence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breathalyser tests were carried out in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* month, *(b)* region, *(c)* age of the driver and *(d)* result. [242901]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables. Information on breathalyser tests broken down by the age of the driver is not collected centrally.

Screening breath tests by month, England and Wales 1997 to 2006

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[2]	*2005*[1]	*Total tests 2006*[1]
January	65,300	64,700	66,700	65,000	54,100	45,700	47,000	46,200	48,400	50,200
February	52,400	53,400	55,900	53,400	44,300	43,500	41,800	40,300	40,900	41,000
March	55,000	55,600	57,300	51,900	46,500	43,200	41,300	40,600	42,500	40,200
April	53,600	57,200	56,400	54,600	49,900	43,200	38,800	41,800	41,700	40,100
May	58,600	58,500	55,500	53,300	52,000	44,400	40,100	43,200	44,700	42,100
June	57,000	58,200	55,700	48,600	44,200	43,300	40,400	44,600	44,200	55,300
July	66,900	61,200	57,800	53,100	43,300	40,800	39,400	46,000	44,700	44,600
August	64,200	66,800	68,400	66,500	52,700	45,400	44,200	45,000	48,100	43,400
September	56,300	59,600	54,500	48,500	44,000	41,500	39,000	45,400	41,500	39,200
October	60,200	68,200	56,500	50,800	42,200	43,300	41,100	45,900	51,700	42,300
November	67,900	69,500	59,500	61,300	51,600	46,700	44,500	52,000	52,100	45,200
December	142,900	142,500	120,300	107,600	99,100	89,100	76,800	86,800	106,800	118,000
Total[4]	800,300	815,500	764,500	714,800	623,900	570,200	534,300	[3]578,100	607,400	601,600

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2006, and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2005.

[2] Total revised since publication, monthly revisions are not available so original 2004 data are provided.

[3] Amended from original publication

[4] Figures may not match totals due to rounding.

Screening breath tests by region and year, 1997 to 2006

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[2]	*2005*	*2006*[1]
East of England	82,700	87,600	74,300	67,600	59,000	53,800	54,000	68,100	84,600	73,600
North West	108,300	102,900	86,800	77,500	59,800	57,700	54,000	63,700	75,500	94,600
North East	47,800	53,800	53,800	46,800	42,800	32,300	27,400	24,000	27,800	26,100
West Midlands	63,400	67,300	52,300	39,900	31,800	29,100	28,200	34,300	34,800	34,700
East Midlands	83,500	95,400	105,000	97,100	82,800	70,500	66,900	69,100	56,600	48,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	54,500	53,700	51,100	53,600	50,100	47,100	41,100	37,600	44,100	48,400
London	141,500	114,700	101,500	94,900	66,200	58,600	57,200	62,200	68,600	66,600
South West	57,100	61,900	58,200	55,800	54,800	53,300	58,400	59,400	56,600	56,900
South East	104,500	117,800	124,200	131,400	128,700	119,500	104,200	110,500	111,700	107,000
Wales	57,100	60,500	57,100	50,300	47,800	48,200	43,000	49,200	47,000	45,700
Total[3]	800,300	815,500	764,500	714,800	623,900	570,200	534,300	578,100	607,400	601,600

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2006, and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2005.
[2] Total figure amended from original publication.
[3] Figures may not match totals due to rounding.

Total number of breath tests by result, England and Wales

	Total Tests	*Total number positive/refused*
1997	800,300	103,500
1998	815,500	102,300
1999	764,500	94,100
2000	714,800	94,600
2001	623,900	99,500
2002	570,200	103,500
2003	534,300	106,300
2004[1]	578,100	103,000
2005	607,400	104,300
2006	601,600	105,700

[1] Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2006, and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Essex, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 and 2005.
Note:
Figure amended since original publication.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of acquisitive crimes committed by dependent drug users, *(b)* the monetary value of goods so stolen and *(c)* the cost to the public purse arising from police time spent investigating such thefts in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [243292]

Jacqui Smith: *(a)* No estimate has been made of the total number of acquisitive crimes committed by dependent drug users, although research evidence does indicate that a large proportion of acquisitive crime is related to drug use. It has been estimated that between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime is drug-related (Source: Drug Strategy 2008).

Home Office research shows that a cohort of individuals identified as drug mis-users (testing positive for heroin, cocaine/crack cocaine) following arrest or charge through the Drug Interventions Programme had an average of 8.8 convictions in the three-year period prior to their positive test. (Source: Home Office Research Report 2, Table 6). It is unknown how many of these individuals were drug dependent. It is also unknown how many of the prior convictions were for acquisitive offending.

Other Home Office research shows that where arrestees report (at least) weekly use of heroin and/or crack cocaine, 81 per cent. of them reported committing acquisitive crimes in the year prior to interview, compared to 30 per cent. of non-heroin and/or crack cocaine users. (Source: Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07).

(b) The total value of monetary goods stolen by dependent drug users is not known.

(c) There is no estimate of the cost arising from police time spent investigating such thefts, although estimates are available of the costs to the CJS of Class A drug related crime. The total cost to the criminal justice system was estimated to be around £3.5 billion for the year 2003-04. (Source: Table 3.3, Home Office Online Report 16/06.)

I will arrange for a copy of the documents referred to be sent to you and for a copy to be placed in the Library of both Houses. They can also be located at the following:

Drug Strategy 2008

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-strategy/overview/

Home Office Research Report 2

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr02c.pdf

Home Office Online report 16/06

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [243293]

Jacqui Smith: No annual estimates are made of the levels of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction.

It is broadly estimated that between a third and half of acquisitive crime is drug-related[1]. Recent Home Office research has found that 81 per cent. of arrestees who used heroin and/or crack cocaine (HC) on at least a weekly basis reported committing acquisitive crimes in the 12 months prior to arrest, in comparison to only 30 per cent. of those arrestees who did not take HC weekly[2]. Around two-fifths (39 per cent.) of drug treatment seekers reported committing an acquisitive crime in the four weeks prior to interview. This figure rose in the case of heroin and crack cocaine users, with 55 per cent. reporting that they committed an acquisitive crime in the four weeks before interview[3].

I will arrange for a copy of the documents referred to be sent to you and for a copy to be placed in the Library of both Houses. They can also be located at the following:

Drug Strategy 2008:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-strategy/overview/

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

Home Office Research Report 3:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03b.pdf

Sources:

[1] Drug Strategy 2008.

[2] Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07.

[3] Home Office Research Report 3.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the relationships between drug dependency, acquisitive crime and the street price of drugs. [243520]

Jacqui Smith: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on the relationship between drug dependency, acquisitive crime and the street price of drugs.

The Department has commissioned a broad range of research which provides insight into the relationship between drug dependency and offending, and this research is routinely made available on the departmental website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/horrpubs.html

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the value for money study of drug policy expenditure undertaken as part of the 2007 drug strategy review. [243513]

Jacqui Smith: The most recently available evidence on illicit drug use and the effectiveness of a range of interventions, which was drawn on in the development of the Drug Strategy is set out in an appendix to the strategy document itself.

The Home Office has no current plans to publish the value for money analysis which helped to inform the development of the new drug strategy.

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families, *(b)* children under the age of 18 and *(c)* people over the age of 18 years were detained within Dungavel detention centre between 1 December and 31 December in each of the last five years. [241497]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2008]*: The number of families and children detained over the last five years between 1 December and 31 December are as follows:

2003: 16 families with 20 children

2004: 6 families with 10 children

2005: 6 families with 4 children

2006: 13 families with 28 children

2007: 3 families with 8 children

The number of individuals aged over 18 years detained between 1 December and 31 December over the last five years are as follows:

	Number of individuals
2003	[1]—
2004	[1]—
2005	99
2006	143
2007	161

[1] Data not available.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government spent on *(a)* Operation Pentameter 1 and *(b)* Operation Pentameter 2. [243320]

Jacqui Smith: We provided £100,000 to further support the victim care arrangements under Operation Pentameter 2. All other costs of both operations were met from existing budgets.

Outside of these operations we have, to date invested £5.8 million in the Poppy Project over the last six years to provide high level specialist support for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and have committed a further £4.9 million over the next three years to support the work of the UK human trafficking centre.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* working as prostitutes; on what research her estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [242656]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom.

The latest estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who had been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. We have no estimate of the scale of trafficking for non sexual purposes. This estimate was part of an internal Home Office document on the social and economic costs of organised crime.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking and the Serious Organised Crime Agency continue to improve our knowledge of this issue and the analysis of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2 will further inform this work.

Identity Cards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures will be introduced to secure the identity of *(a)* people under 16 years and *(b)* individuals who will not be enrolled on the National Identity Register. [241606]

Jacqui Smith: The Identity and Passport Service already holds securely identity information on some 43 million people of all ages issued with passports within the United Kingdom. It will continue to hold securely the identity information of people under 16 years of age who hold a passport and of adults who hold a passport but have not yet enrolled on the National Identity Register.

Identity Cards: Internet

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6 November 2008, what mechanism will exist to allow the public to check their core identity information on the internet; [241636]

(2) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6 November 2008, how will the security of the system to allow identity card holders to check their core identity information online be protected; [241637]

(3) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6 November 2008, what estimate has been made of the cost of providing the system to allow identity card holders to check their core identity information online. [241638]

Jacqui Smith: It is intended that a web-based service will be introduced as identity cards begin to be introduced in high volumes to permit an individual to check their core identity information on the National Identity Register. This will be subject to secure remote authentication of the individual in question so that we are assured that it is the individual in question that is making the request. We are currently investigating the possible alternatives available to achieve this but no final method has been decided. The system will also need to achieve security accreditation in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines before it can start operation.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is currently in the process of procuring the system that will enable the establishment of this service. This process will involve the creation of varying systems design from participating bidders on the basis of outcome-based requirements provided by IPS. They can propose a number of different technical and security solutions to deliver such requirements. As a result, the detailed security measures that will be put in place in order to meet the appropriate security standards will be dependent on the final design proposed by the successful bidder. It is not possible to identify the specific cost of providing this service separately at this point in time.

Identity Cards: Public Opinion

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many items of correspondence her Department has received on identity cards and the national identity database in the last two years; and how many expressed *(a)* support for and *(b)* opposition to the Government's policy; [241661]

(2) how many written requests her Department has received from persons expressing the desire to apply early for an identity card. [241806]

Jacqui Smith: The Identity and Passport Services has received 3,073 items of correspondence regarding the identity cards and the National Identity Register from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2008.

Correspondence received regarding the national identity scheme is not recorded as being in support of or in opposition to identity cards.

The volume of correspondence on the national identity scheme is recorded each month. The detail of the correspondence received is recorded by theme. The list of themes is not exhaustive and can be added to as required. One letter can generate multiple themes.

From October 2007 to September 2008, the number one theme every month, accounting for by far the most common subject matter, has been "Wants an ID Card". The Identity and Passport Services received 1,142 items of correspondence recorded under the theme of "wants an identity card" from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2008.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Independent Safeguarding Authority is funded; what considerations underlay the appointment of the chair, chief executive and board of the authority; what work it has undertaken to date; and if she will make a statement. [246053]

Meg Hillier: The Independent Safeguarding Authority is a non-departmental public body established by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as the "Independent Barring Board"), sponsored by the Home Office and funded by grant-in-aid.

The chair, Board Members and Chief Executive of the Authority were all recruited by open competition. The Chair and Members must meet the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the 2006 Act. Requirements for the post of Chief Executive included significant senior management experience and knowledge of safeguarding issues.

In addition to the work required to establish the new Authority, recruit and transfer staff and establish a headquarters building, the Authority at present provides advice to the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 8 to the 2006 Act.

Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2275-6W, on Metropolitan Police: human trafficking, if she will place in the Library a copy of all recent correspondence between her Department, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Metropolitan Police related to the funding of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking team. [243448]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The MPS were informed by ACPO of the grant available for the current financial year in early 2008. The MPS have found themselves unable to mainstream this work into their budget as expected. In the light of this and the availability of some money from their existing budget, we have agreed, exceptionally to provide funding which will enable the MPS to maintain the trafficking team for 2009-10. This funding has been offered on the basis that the full cost of the trafficking team is met solely from the MPS budget as from 1 April 2010.

Police: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police constables, *(c)* police sergeants and *(d)* police community support offices were working in West Chelmsford constituency in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to date. [244181]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Police strength data are not collected by parliamentary constituency areas. Data are collected at the Basic Command Unit (BCU) level and at the force level. These data are published annually in the Home Office

Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

Data for the Central BCU of Essex police are not collected by police rank and so data for all officers and for PCSOs are given in Table 1.

Data for Essex police for the police ranks requested and for PCSOs are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Police officer and PCSO strength for the Basic Command Unit of Essex Central as at 31 March in the years given[1]

	2007	*2008*
Police officers (all ranks)	506	517
Police community support officers	86	100

Table 2: Police officer strength and PCSO strength for Essex police force as at 31 March in the years given[1]

	2007	*2008*
Police officers (all ranks)	3,341	3,385
Police constables	2,618	2,663
Police sergeants	505	499
Police community support officers	388	435

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from Essex Police on areas of budgetary (i) overspend and (ii) underspend by Essex police force since January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [244869]

Mr. Coaker: We have not received any representations nor held any discussions with Essex police on overspends and underspends.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief constable of Essex and the police authority It is a legal requirement for the police authority to set balanced budgets taking into account any use of reserves.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of levels of job satisfaction of officers in Essex Police in each year since 1997; what assessment she has made of trends in such levels; and if she will make a statement. [244872]

Mr. Coaker: We do not undertake such assessments. It is a matter for the chief constable to consider whether they are appropriate.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many authorised firearms officers there were in England in each year since 2005; [243603]

(2) how many authorised firearms officers were recruited in England in each year since 2005. [243604]

Jacqui Smith: Details of the number of authorised firearms officers in England and Wales are published on an annual basis and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/police-firearms-statistics-06-1

Figures for the number of authorised firearms officers recruited every year are not collected separately.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to hold a public consultation on the proposals contained in her Department's review Tackling the Demand for Prostitution. [244914]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Review of Tackling the Demand for Prostitution engaged with key stakeholders and practitioners, including the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service as well as a variety of organisations that provide support to individuals involved in prostitution, and considered a range of evidence from a number of sources. There are no plans to conduct a public consultation on the recommendations of the review.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the average age of people working as prostitutes; on what research that estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that research; [244925]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of prostitutes working in the UK who are *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* under the age of 16, *(d)* suffering from a drug addiction, *(e)* homeless, *(f)* supporting dependants and *(e)* working for another person's gain; on what research each estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of that research. [244926]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available.

Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which sectors of industry have sites protected by armed police. [243809]

Mr. Coaker: We do not comment on the security arrangements in place either at sites or in industry sectors. However, I can assure you that security in all sectors of industry is kept under review by the Government and police in co-operation with the relevant companies and organisations.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of *(a)* abolishing the Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* merging the Agency's functions with those of the (i) Serious Organised Crime Agency and (ii) National Policing Improvement Agency has been; and what estimate she has made of the effect on public expenditure resulting from these changes. [243918]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) incurred costs of £725,000 which were attributable to the merger with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the National Policing Improvement Agency. The costs to the National Policing Improvement Agency are included in ARA's costs. The Serious Organised Crime Agency incurred costs of £685,000. As the merger only took effect from 1 April 2008, no estimate of annual savings is currently available.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: National Policing Improvement Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes were made to the funding allocated to *(a)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* the National Policing Improvement Agency as a result of the merger with elements of the Assets Recovery Agency. [243926]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A total of £13.795 million of the Assets Recovery Agency's base budget of £15.55 million was transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency with effect from 1 April 2008. The remaining £1.705 million was transferred to the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders in England and Wales are currently recorded as having their whereabouts unknown. [241608]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Terrorism: India

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with her Indian counterpart on the implications of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai for the national security of the UK and India. [243819]

Mr. Coaker: I have not had any direct discussions with my Indian counterpart since the horrific attacks in Mumbai. However, discussions on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai were the focal point of the Prime Minister's visit to India on 13-14 December. During the course of that visit the Prime Minister offered to the Indian Government any help with the investigations that we can give, and discussed with them how we can work more closely together to tackle terrorism and its causes. As part of this the Prime Minister agreed a programme of work with India including work to improve aviation security, and work to improve the security of major sporting events such as the Commonwealth games in New Delhi in 2010, and the Olympic games in London in 2012.

Thames Valley Police

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported in the Thames Valley police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate was in each such year. [244373]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded and detected and is given in the following tables. Non-sanction detections that contribute to detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 1: Number of offences and the detection rate for offences recorded in Thames Valley—1998-99 to 2001-02

Period	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
1998-99	176,477	25
1999-2000[1]	191,875	20
2000-01	187,909	22
2001-02	196,980	24

[1] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999. The new instructions provided more precise and rigorous criteria for recording a detection with the underlying emphasis on the successful result of a police investigation.

Table 2: Number of offences and the detection rate for offences recorded in Thames Valley—2002-03 to 2007-08

Period	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
2002-03	208,523	25
2003-04	210,256	23
2004-05	205,273	26
2005-06	201,412	28
2006-07	211,325	25
2007-08	196,008	25

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* thefts were reported in the Thames Valley police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate was in each such year. [244375]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables. A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Non-sanction detections that contribute to detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Table 1: Number of offences and the detection rate for offences recorded in Thames Valley—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Burglary		Violence against the person		Theft offences	
Period	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
1998-99	30,735	22	10,784	76	89,610	18
1999-2000[1]	31,185	13	13,870	68	96,123	14
2000-01	27,756	12	14,797	71	91,392	16
2001-02	27,708	17	16,646	70	94,964	18

[1] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999. The new instructions provided more precise and rigorous criteria for recording a detection with the underlying emphasis on the successful result of a police investigation.

Table 2: Number of offences and the detection rate for offences recorded in Thames Valley—2002-03 to 2007-08

	Burglary		Violence against the person		Theft offences	
Period	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
2002-03	29,432	15	25,326	61	93,699	18
2003-04	30,076	13	28,500	51	90,250	16
2004-05	25,466	14	34,223	52	84,902	18
2005-06	24,771	14	35,687	59	80,400	17
2006-07	24,085	13	41,422	49	78,682	15
2007-08	22,353	9	42,201	40	72,903	16

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions in respect of diagnosis code *(a)* F10, *(b)* K70 and *(c)* T51 there were in each (i) NHS primary care trust area and (ii) NHS region in (A) 1997, (B) 2001, (C) 2005 and (D) the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by age group of patient admitted; and if he will make a statement. [240484]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the Library.

Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organisations his Department has contacted asking them to pay suppliers within 10 days of receiving an invoice. [244694]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has contacted 318 organisations to alert them to the Government's commitment to paying suppliers within 10 days.

Bisphenol A

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to discourage the use of food and drinks packaging containing bisphenol A; [244954]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the safety of food and drinks packaging containing bisphenol A. [244955]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has been working closely with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to ensure that the safety of bisphenol A (BPA) is kept under review. EFSA last reviewed the safety of BPA in July this year taking into account recent data from North America. They reiterated their conclusions from 2006 establishing a tolerable daily intake for consumers of 0.05 milligrams per kilogram of bodyweight per day. Monitoring data from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has found that the level of BPA that UK consumers are exposed to is well below this level. The FSA has nevertheless explored with the packaging industry the possibility of developing alternatives to BPA. However, this is a long-term project which is likely to take several years to complete to ensure any alternatives maintain food safety.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* raise awareness of and *(b)* prevent further deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning. [244510]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is committed to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning among the public and medical profession and to help prevent deaths and injuries caused by CO poisoning.

The Department's 'Think CO' awareness campaign, which supported the national 'carbon monoxide awareness week' on 17-23 November 2008, urged general practitioners, accident and emergency consultants and community nurses to 'Think CO' when patients present with specific symptoms.

This included an updated joint letter from the chief medical officer, Liam Donaldson, and chief nursing officer, Christine Beasley, which was sent to every general practitioner and emergency physician in England, with an updated national health service public information leaflet. A wide range of other key stakeholders were also sent these resources. A diagnostic flowchart is also being prepared by the Health Protection Agency.

The letter and NHS leaflet are available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/CMOLetters/index.htm

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_090124

Copies have been placed in the Library.

The December 2008 CMO winter update, which is sent to all doctors registered with the General Medical Council in England, also highlighted the 'Think CO' campaign and the need to raise awareness and consider CO in differential diagnoses. This is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/CMOupdate/index.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Other steps include supporting patient groups with Section 64 grants, including CO advice in various departmental publications and the commissioning of research.

Children's Health Strategy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to publish the Children's Health Strategy; [245272]

(2) what proposals relating to children's palliative care will feature in the Children's Health Strategy. [245273]

Ann Keen: Children, families and stakeholders have been engaged in developing the strategy over the summer, and the proposals are being aligned with other activity and recommendations from key reviews such as the CAMHS review. We expect to be in a position to publish the Child Health Strategy soon. Addressing the needs of disabled and terminally ill children will be part of this strategy.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* cognitive behavioural treatment, *(b)* aerobic exercise and *(c)* mitochondrial testing for patients diagnosed with myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome in each year since 1997. [244737]

Ann Keen: Information on the cost of providing treatment for specific diagnosed conditions, such as chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is not collected.

Clostridium

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines exist for the isolation of patients being checked for C. difficile infection before a diagnosis has been reached. [[illegible]]

Ann Keen: Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Clostridium, difficile infection by a Department of Health/Public Health Laboratory Service Joint Working Group were published in 1994. These guidelines advise that "patients with diarrhoea and suspected of infection should be isolated". The guidelines are available on the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website, link:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1179745281238?p=1179745281238

A copy has been placed in the Library.

This guidance is currently being reviewed and the new version will be published shortly.

Further detail on isolation is available in the Guidance on Isolating Patients with Healthcare Associated Infection published by the Department of Health as part of the "Saving Lives" programme in 2007. As this document emphasises,

> "the correct and timely placement of infected patients (suspected or proven infection) into single rooms can be very effective in reducing the overall numbers of infected patients; it can also reduce the risk of colonisation in other patients within the ward."

This document is available on the HPA's website at the same link as above and on the Clean, Safe care website, link:

http://www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk/public/default.aspx?level=2&load=Tools&NodeID=131

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2055W, on coastal areas, what matters have been raised by his Department's representation on the cross-departmental working group; and at what level his Department is represented at the group's meetings. [244403]

Phil Hope: The strategic objectives for the Department are better health and well-being for all, better care for all and better value for all.

The cross-departmental working group is looking at English coastal towns. The Department has raised the role of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to facilitate stronger local partnerships, including coastal towns, to improve health and social care and reduce inequalities. The Department's Health Inequalities Spearhead Council programme includes coastal towns.

The Department is represented at Grade 6 level.

Community Nurses: Social Services

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to community nurses on the co-ordination of their work with people employed by social services departments. [244319]

Ann Keen: No guidance has been issued centrally. It is for local national health service organisations in partnership with local authorities to commission high quality services and to integrate health and social care. The Nursing and Midwifery Council's 'The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives' makes the commitment for members to work with others to protect and promote the health and well-being of those in their care, their families and carers, and the wider community.

Continuing Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 68W, on continuing care: standards, how many people were in receipt of continuing care in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each (i) quarter and (ii) year since 1998. [[illegible]]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Data before 2007-08 were collected on an annual basis. Prior to 2002-03 these data were not collected.

Dementia

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the Government's dementia strategy; and if he will make a statement. [245279]

Phil Hope: We will publish the National Dementia Strategy early in 2009, which will be a major landmark in improving services for people with dementia and their carers.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244706]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Whitehall standard target for the Department is to ensure that at least 90 per cent. of all ministerial and public correspondence receives a quality response within 20 working days.

As at the 15 December, the Department had 1,438 letters awaiting a response. Of these, 34 letters have missed the Whitehall standard target.

The Department had 848 emails awaiting response. Of these, 37 emails have missed the Whitehall standard target.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244611]

Mr. Bradshaw: This Department supports and aims to meet the Government's targets to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy efficiency of the Government estate. We have been working with the Carbon Trust to identify energy saving measures, and will shortly be embarking on a Carbon Management Programme throughout our core estate and in our arm's length bodies.

We have taken part in a number of staff events aimed at encouraging people to save energy, both at work and at home.

We have produced a Green IT Action Plan that includes a roadmap for implementation of the Quick Win energy saving initiatives within the Cabinet Office Greening Government ICT paper.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244347]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of furniture purchased by the Department since 2001-02 is as follows:

	£
2001-02	113,000
2002-03	76,000
2003-04	46,743
2004-05	149,097
2005-06	514,155
2006-07	1,074,555
2007-08	675,018

The Department does not currently keep a record of itemised purchases so are unable to break down the figures as requested, though the vast majority of furniture is obtained by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) framework main contracted supplier, Kinnarps, who are Swedish based. The Department does not hold figures for earlier than 2001-02.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 78W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost of each of the projects listed was at their outset. [242166]

Mr. Bradshaw: The projects listed in my previous answer were those over £100,000 currently being undertaken by the Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA). The original expected completion date and estimated cost details are listed as follows:

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Total estimated cost of project at outset (£000)*	*Estimated delivery date of project at outset*
Department of Health	Ref Costs 2008	875	December 2008
Department of Health	[illegible] Improvements	240	December 2008
Department of Health	[illegible]	680	February 2008
Department of Health	Learning Management System	684	May 2009
Department of Health	Contact	519	March 2009
Department of Health	ACCEA	1,203	July 2009
Department of Health	C&B	578	September 2008
Department of Health	Delphi 2	2,198	January 2009
Department of Health	Business Intelligence Implementation	967	January 2009
Department of Health	Enterprise Architecture Programme	290	March 2009
Department of Health	Health Protection Informatics Website[1]	485	n/a

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Total estimated cost of project at outset (£000)*	*Estimated delivery date of project at outset*
Department of Health	Quickr (Quickplace Upgrade)	188	August 2008
Department of Health	Centralised Security Monitoring	171	April 2008
Department of Health	Citria Upgrade	154	April 2008
Department of Health	WAN Upgrade	411	April 2009
MHRA	Sentinel Server Upgrade	3,500	January 2009
MHRA	Sentinel Component software development	1,600	June 2009
MHRA	Eudra GMP Linkage	320	January 2009
PASA	Pharmacy Replacement[2]	150	March 2009

[1] The HPI is an IT programme, rather than a single project. It has been set up to provide information and data services to enable the DH to manage the national immunisation programme. It also provides tools to facilitate the management of surveillance information as part of the DH pandemic preparedness measures. The programme was initially established in 2004 to collect flu update data from GPs with a budget of £485,000. The programme has expanded since that point, providing national immunisation data related to a number of vaccinations including influenza, pneumococcal and HPV, as well as surveillance and pandemic preparedness initiatives. Further development and support of the application will be ongoing, to reflect the evolving immunisation and panflu preparedness programmes. The website is being produced and maintained as part of this programme. It does not have a given date.

[2] The figure of £150,000 relates to the original scope of the Pharmacy Replacement project. This was subsequently expanded.

Note:

This corrects information given to the hon. Member on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 78W.

The IT projects undertaken by Connecting for Health are listed as follows.

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Total estimated cost of project (£ billion)*	*Current estimated delivery date of project*
NHS Connecting for Health	National Programme for IT (NPfIT)	[1]6.2	[2]—

[1] The value of contracts placed in 2003 and 2004 for the core components of the National programme was £6.2 billion over 10 years. Note: costs of the items procured under these contracts have not increased, but there have been increases to the scope and a number of new products have been added. The figure reported in the 3 November reply also included other central and local costs of the programme, for which no comparable figure was available when the core contracts were placed.

[2] NPfIT comprises a number of separate systems and services for which, as a whole, there is no single completion date.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244391]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not employ any permanent staff paid at an hourly rate.

Since July 2008 temporary clerical and administrative workers are supplied from agencies to the Department under the Home Office Framework. The supplying agencies are selected by fair competition on the basis of value for money. The Department contracts with the supplying agencies and not their temporary employees.

The Department cannot interfere in the commercial relationship between an agency and its employee and so cannot ensure parity in the rates paid by the agency to its employee as compared with the Department's own employees.

Down's Syndrome

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been born with *(a)* Down's Syndrome and *(b)* Fragile X Syndrome in each of the last 30 years. [244804]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children have been born with (a) Down's Syndrome and (b) Fragile X Syndrome in each of the last 30 years. (244804)

The table attached provides the number of live and stillbirths notified to the National Congenital Anomaly System for England and Wales (NCAS) with a mention of (a) Down's Syndrome and (b) Fragile X Syndrome for the last 30 years. Figures for Fragile X Syndrome are not available prior to 1995.

The number of notifications received by NCAS is likely to be less than the actual number of infants born with an anomaly. The level of under-reporting would be higher for anomalies which are not readily apparent at birth, such as Fragile X Syndrome, than for those which are easier to diagnose, such as Down's Syndrome.

NHS Trusts provide these notifications to NCAS on a voluntary basis, either on forms sent to the Office for National Statistics shortly after the birth or via local congenital anomaly registers. The recording of congenital anomalies is more complete in those areas where a register operates, because the register can obtain additional information locally later. Consequently, the figures for congenital anomalies are presented separately for areas where a register operated and for areas without a register in a particular year. While a few of these local congenital anomaly registers were already established in 1998, others were set up as late as 2003. In 2006, registers covered 43 per cent of births in England and all births in Wales.

Table 1: Number of notifications to the National Congenital Anomaly System with a mention of (a) Down's Syndrome[1] and (b) Fragile X Syndrome[1, 2] 1977 to 2006 England and Wales[3]

		Down's Syndrome			*Fragile X Syndrome*		
	Percentage of births covered by a register[3]	*Register areas*	*Non register areas*	*Total*	*Register areas*	*Non register areas*	*Total*
1977	0	0	425	425	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 1: Number of notifications to the National Congenital Anomaly System with a mention of (a) Down's Syndrome[1] and (b) Fragile X Syndrome[1, 2] 1977 to 2006 England and Wales[3]

		Down's Syndrome			Fragile X Syndrome		
	Percentage of births covered by a register[3]	*Register areas*	*Non register areas*	*Total*	*Register areas*	*Non register areas*	*Total*
1978	0	0	444	444	n/a	n/a	n/a
1979	0	0	463	463	n/a	n/a	n/a
1980	0	0	481	481	n/a	n/a	n/a
1981	0	0	475	475	n/a	n/a	n/a
1982	0	0	527	527	n/a	n/a	n/a
1983	0	0	497	497	n/a	n/a	n/a
1984	0	0	505	505	n/a	n/a	n/a
1985	0	0	442	442	n/a	n/a	n/a
1986	0	0	445	445	n/a	n/a	n/a
1987	0	0	459	459	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988	0	0	428	428	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989	0	0	487	487	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990	0	0	415	415	n/a	n/a	n/a
1991	0	0	440	440	n/a	n/a	n/a
1992	0	0	394	394	n/a	n/a	n/a
1993	0	0	311	311	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994	0	0	316	316	n/a	n/a	n/a
1995	0	0	320	320	0	1	1
1996	0	0	357	357	0	3	3
1997	0	0	412	412	0	1	1
1998	5	38	419	457	n/a	n/a	1
1999	14	99	327	426	n/a	n/a	7
2000	27	167	244	411	2	0	2
2001	26	165	216	381	0	1	1
2002	32	165	192	357	2	0	2
2003	45	275	132	407	3	1	4
2004	46	361	112	473	2	0	2
2005	48	372	108	480	0	0	0
2006[4]	44	309	109	418	0	0	0

[1] The table includes notifications between 1995 and 2006 coded to (a) Q90 and (b) Q99.2 using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10). Figures for 1995 onwards are based on data on NCAS on 17 October 2007. Figures for Down's Syndrome for earlier years are taken from previous publications—notifications between 1979 and 1994 were coded to 758.0 (ICD-9).

[2] Figures for Fragile X are not available before 1995. Figures for notifications in register areas in 1998 and 1999 are omitted because they would be based on data from only two registers.

[3] Births to women resident in England and Wales.

[4] Figures for 2006 exclude data for some areas which used to be part of East Midlands and South Yorkshire congenital anomaly register.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the purpose is of the Drug Change Programme pilots; and what assessment he has made of the implications of the pilots for levels of bureaucracy in the administration of drug and alcohol treatment. [241688]

Dawn Primarolo: The purpose of the Drug System Change Pilots programme is to test the potential to make improvements that can make a real difference in the way drug provision is delivered at a regional and local level. In the Drug Strategy, 'Drugs: protecting families and communities (2008)', the Government made a commitment to test out new approaches to delivering services, which ensures the drug treatment system and broader social support services work more closely together and become more focused on improved outcomes, including more personalised and innovative services. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

This pilot programme will give drug partnerships the opportunity to develop new approaches that allow them to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and burdens. Funding will also be available to pilot areas to kick-start the pilots and help build capacity by funding the appointment of a project manager and administrative support.

Health Services: Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Government-funded residential places were available at any one time for women who were victims of human trafficking in each of the last five years. [241541]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Government-funded residential places were available for women who were victims of human trafficking in each month of the last five years. [241804]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have funded the Poppy project to provide specialist, high-level support to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation since 2003. During the piloting of the project between 2003 and 2005, the service provided 25 supported accommodation places on a rolling basis. Funding was increased in 2006 to provide 25 acute places, 10 resettlement places and an outreach service. In 2007 and 2008 the project was provided with an additional small flexible budget to help with capacity building so victims can be temporarily accommodated in other refuges where necessary.

The Poppy project has supported 401 women since it opened in 2003; 210 received supported accommodation and 191 received outreach support. A break-down on occupancy levels by year is not available. Data on the number of victims that have not been able to access the Poppy project due to it reaching capacity in the last five years is not available.

We are currently tendering for a national support service model for victims of human trafficking, which will include an increased number of accommodation places from spring 2009.

Health Services: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in respect of patient representation in the health service in Stoke-on-Trent; and if he will make a statement. [244062]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Government are committed to creating a stronger voice for service users and members of the public at every level of the health—and social care—system, developing systems that are led by what people want and that learn from experience.

A number of ways exist for patients or their representatives—as well as their families and carers, and members of the public—not only to express their views on their experiences of care and their needs for services but to have different levels of more direct involvement in influencing the planning, commissioning, delivery and scrutiny of publicly funded services.

For example there is a duty on the national health service to involve people in service planning and development, a new duty on primary care trusts to report back to communities on the impact of consultation on their commissioning decisions, and a local involvement network in each local authority with social services responsibilities area in England. We are also introducing a single, more simple, complaints system covering all NHS and adult social care services that focuses on the individual and seeks to ensure that people's experiences help to improve services. NHS foundation trusts also offer the opportunity of membership to local people.

Health Visitors

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the role of health visitors in safeguarding children; [244521]

(2) what assessment he has made of the contribution that health visitors make towards safeguarding children. [244523]

Ann Keen: Ministers and officials of the Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have regular discussions about all aspects of safeguarding children. Health visitors, like all health professionals working directly with children, have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare.

Hospitals: Hygiene

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of hospitals in meeting hygiene and cleanliness standards. [245003]

Ann Keen: NHS Estates set up the Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) programme in 2000 to inspect hospital cleanliness. This programme is now managed by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). Under the PEAT programme, every inpatient health care facility in England with more than 10 beds is assessed annually. PEAT inspections cover food and aspects of privacy and dignity, as well as cleanliness and the environment. All areas have shown improvement this year. The hospital PEAT scores for 2008 show 98.5 per cent. of hospitals are now rated excellent, good or acceptable. More information can be found on the NPSA website:

www.npsa.nhs.uk/peat.

The Health Act 2006: Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, commonly called the "Hygiene Code", came into force on 1 October 2006 and requires national health service bodies to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control. Compliance with the Code is assessed by the Healthcare Commission (HCC), who have the power to issue an "improvement notice" to an NHS body that is not compliant. During 2007-08 the HCC carried out 120 unannounced inspections to ensure compliance with the Hygiene Code and, from April 2008, specialist teams from the HCC have been carrying out annual infection control inspections of all acute trusts against the Hygiene Code. Four improvement notices have been issued to acute trusts by the HCC so far. All four trusts subsequently demonstrated that they had improved and were compliant with the Hygiene Code.

As part of the HCC's Annual Health Check, the HCC asks all NHS trusts to declare their performance against the 44 parts of the 24 core standards for NHS healthcare, as set out in "Standards for Better Health". The HCC then carries out a number of inspections to test these declarations. Three standards relate to the hygiene code, C04a (infection control), C04c (decontamination) and C21 (clean environments). In the 2007-08 annual health check, the national compliance rate in the NHS for C04a (infection control) was 88 per cent., the compliance rate for C04c (decontamination) was 77 per cent., and the compliance rate for C21 (clean environments) was 90 per cent.

Further information on the HCC's programme, including the results of their inspections of individual trusts against the Hygiene Code, a summary of their findings of the first 51 inspections against the Hygiene Code in 2008 and their reports on the 2007-08 Annual Health Check and on the State of Healthcare 2008, can be found on their website, www.healthcarecommission.org.uk. The Care Quality Commission, the new health and adult social care regulator established under the new Health and Social Care Act, will continue to regulate and inspect trusts against their requirements to prevent and control infections.

Learning Disability

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to improve information provision for people with a learning disability who require social care; and if he will make a statement; [244766]

(2) if he will commission research to analyse potential financial savings to the Department of Health of greater investment in employment provision for people with a learning disability; [244767]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure black and minority ethnic communities are aware of the social care available to support people with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [244806]

Phil Hope: People from black and minority ethnic communities with learning disabilities and their families may need better information about the social care support that is available to them. This was highlighted in the "Valuing People Now" (December 2007) consultation, and action to address this concern will be a priority in the forthcoming strategy, which is due to be published in the new year.

It is important for people with learning disabilities to have the right information in a format that is accessible to them. "Putting People First" (December 2007), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets out that people should have access to better support, information and advocacy so they (and their carers) are able to find the information they need. This will be addressed in the "Valuing People Now" strategy.

A key strand of that forthcoming strategy will be around supporting people with learning disabilities to have jobs. We are working across Government to support the implementation of Public Service Agreement 16, which aims to support socially excluded adults, including those with learning disabilities, into employment and settled accommodation. This includes work on the "Getting a Life" programme, which will help to improve the evidence base and ensure greater working opportunities are available for people with learning disabilities. The Department has no current plans to commission other research on this issue.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to local authorities to ensure that their resource allocation systems achieve a fair and effective allocation of resources for people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [244769]

Phil Hope: It is for local authorities to ensure that their systems for allocating social care funding are fair and effective. The Department published a personalisation toolkit in June 2008 which provides local authorities with advice and working examples to help them transform their social care systems, including the development of their resource allocation systems. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the mortality rate of people with a learning disability has been in each of the last 30 years; [244803]

(2) how many people with a learning disability received state-funded social care in the latest period for which figures are available. [244805]

Phil Hope: We do not have information on the mortality rates of people with a learning disability in each of the last 30 years.

Data on the number of people receiving services funded either fully or partially by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) in England is collected and published by The NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of the referrals, assessments and packages of care return.

During the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 137,000 adults aged 18-64 in England with learning disabilities received a social care service funded either partly or wholly by their CASSR following a community care assessment. Data for 2007-08 will be published at the end of this month.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the out-of-area placement of people with learning disabilities in each of the last five years. [245007]

Phil Hope: The Department's policy is that services should be personalised to meet the needs of the individual including providing support as close to home as possible.

We have a programme of work to support development of local services so that people with learning disabilities do not need to be sent away from home. The Department has not commissioned specific research on out-of-area placements.

Learning Disability: Babies

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect advances in peri-natal and neo-natal care have had on the number of babies with profound and multiple learning disabilities surviving beyond infancy; and if he will make a statement. [244802]

Ann Keen: No recent assessment has been made.

Advances in technology and health care expertise has led to increasing survival rates of very premature babies over the last 20 years. Over the past decade, survival has improved dramatically for babies born at 26 weeks of gestation and above so that now over 80 per cent. survive.

The EPICure Study (led by the Department of Child Health, University of Nottingham) was established in 1995 to determine the chances of survival and later health status by following up children who were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland at less than 26 weeks gestational age during a 10 month period in that year. This is now an on-going study, which it is hoped will not only show survival and rates of disability but also identify factors at birth, which could give an indication as to the long-term outcome for the survivors.

The latest information is that of all babies born at 25 weeks gestation that survive to six years 60 per cent. are either not disabled or have a mild disability and 40 per cent. will have moderate to severe disability.

Lyme Disease

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will institute a national register of those who have contracted Lyme disease. [245188]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to set up a national register for cases of Lyme disease. Robust surveillance nationally is already in place, based upon reporting of all laboratory confirmed cases of *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection, the cause of Lyme disease. The Department is proposing to strengthen this surveillance by making meningitis associated with *Borrelia* infection notifiable under proposed new regulations to be made under the Public Health Control of Disease Act 1984. We will be consulting on this latter proposal shortly.

Mental Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in achieving race equality in the local commissioning of mental health services. [240358]

Phil Hope: In 2005 the Department launched 'Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care' (DRE). DRE is a five year action plan designed to improve black and minority ethnic (BME) communities' experience of mental health services, and to address the apparent inequalities in the incidence of severe mental illness between ethnic groups in England. There has been significant progress.

For example, the DRE programme has helped to develop replicable good practice around tailored pathways of care for BME service users; new training in race equality for mental health staff has been tested successfully and made available nationally; pilot projects of the programme improving access to psychological therapies have demonstrated that BME communities can have equal access to, and equal outcomes from, the new services; and primary care trusts have so far recruited over 400 new community development workers, whose role is to build links between local BME communities and mental health services and to help communities play a part in planning and providing those services.

We do, though, believe that the national health service still must do more to meet the needs of increasingly diverse local populations, particularly by delivering early and equitable access to effective community-based interventions. These issues will stay a priority for services for the duration of the DRE programme and beyond.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to improve primary care services for people with mental health problems. [240709]

Phil Hope: We are investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT), with annual funding rising to £173 million to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people by 2011. Investment in IAPT will help to add to existing provision of psychological therapies, increase capacity, reduce waiting times and drive up quality standards. Primary care trusts will be able to offer patients a fully integrated care pathway for mental health services, from mild to moderate depression or anxiety disorders to acute mental health problems.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners received mental health care treatment in the last financial year. [240694]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Mentally Ill

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made by the National Social Inclusion working group on the co-ordination and establishment of regional employment partnerships for people with mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [240716]

Phil Hope: The National Social Inclusion Programme's regional employment teams (RETs) on Mental Health initiative is a two year project to implement action 23 of the Social Exclusion Task Force report "Reaching Out, An Action Plan on Social Exclusion" (Cabinet Office, 2006). Action point 23 relates to improving employment outcomes for people with severe mental health conditions. It also aims to encourage local activity to achieve the mental health employment target of public service agreement 16 (PSA 16), to improve employment and housing outcomes for socially excluded groups.

During their first year of operation the range of activity undertaken by RETs included regional summits of key partners, the creation of strategy groups with partnership meetings and stakeholder events and the development of a regional action plan and statement of priorities.

The RETs have also looked at how best to influence existing policies and strategies, such as the development of the city strategy initiative and roll out of Pathways to Work and Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies programmes.

As well as local activity the RETs provide ongoing input into development of national policy. This includes working with the Cabinet Office on data collection and measuring progress against mental health employment target under PSA16, and input into the cross-Government group on mental health and employment.

The other critical policy development for the RETs activity is the cross Government response to Dame Carol Black's report "Working for a healthier tomorrow" in which mental health is both a cross cutting theme as well as forming a separate work stream.

National Support for Local Implementation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent of local use of his Department's resource tool National Support for Local Implementation in relation to long-term conditions. [245735]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the extent of local use of the resource tool National Support for Local Implementation.

Neurology

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving the 11 quality requirements to improve treatment, care and support from diagnosis to end of life for people with neurological conditions in 2008. [245736]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the progress made towards the 11 quality requirements to improve the treatment, care and support to those with neurological conditions published in the National Service Framework for Long-term (neurological) Conditions (the NSF), a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Since publication of the NSF, the Department has provided service planners, commissioners and providers with guidance, expert advice and support to help them to deliver the NSF's quality requirements. However, in line with devolving responsibility to local organisations, we are moving to new phase with much greater emphasis on local health and social care communities and the third sector taking responsibility for driving forward service change and improvement.

NHS: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2066W, on departmental public expenditure, whether the weighted capitation formula for National Health Service allocations takes into account *(a)* transience of, *(b)* levels of alcohol and drug abuse in, *(c)* the number of elderly people in, *(d)* the number of households not meeting the decent housing threshhold in, *(e)* the number of people on incapacity benefit in and *(f)* the number of vulnerable children and adults in local populations; [244404]

(2) whether the weighted cap funding for health used by his Department includes weighting for the number of *(a)* houses of multiple occupation, *(b)* caravan parks and *(c)* other forms of housing associated with transient populations. [244847]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) in England for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were announced on 8 December 2008. They were informed by the new weighted capitation formula for England developed by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA).

The weighted capitation formula for England is based on an assessment of the relative need for health care services, which takes account of the size, age, health status and socio-economic characteristics of PCTs' populations. The weighted capitation formula takes direct account of the number of elderly people, and for the health and community health services component, the number of people on incapacity benefit. The formula also takes into account the number of asylum seekers. The other characteristics listed are not taken into account directly within the formula.

As part of the review that informed the new formula, ACRA commissioned independent research on the appropriate elements to be included in the weighted capitation formula. The new formula includes a range of socio-economic characteristics and indicators of deprivation, all of which have been tested for technical robustness and materiality.

The full list of factors taken into account in the weighted capitation formula is set out in the Department's publication "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula, Sixth Edition", which has been placed in the Library, and is also available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091849

The "Report of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation" has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091484

The research reports supporting ACRA's review will also be published shortly.

NHS: Stress

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to the finding in the Healthcare Commission's report State of Healthcare 2008 that 33 per cent. of NHS staff report that they are stressed at work. [244225]

Ann Keen: The 33 per cent. figure quoted in the State of Healthcare Report 2008 is taken from the NHS Staff Survey Report 2007.

It is important that the staff survey results inform future work to improve the working lives of NHS staff at national, regional and local level.

NHS Employers has developed a range of advice, guidance and tools to support employers in addressing stress in the workplace and these can be found at:

www.nhsemployers.org/practice/practice-4010.cfm

For example in spring 2009 NHS Employers, working in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive, staff side organisations and the NHS Litigation Authority will be running a series of workshops to exchange good practice already developed with the service.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Strokes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist stroke nurses were employed by the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [244130]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated for stroke-related conditions in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and its predecessor trust in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [244131]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Only data on hospital admissions and activity within hospitals are collected and not all incidences of strokes are treated within a hospital setting.

The Department holds information on patients treated in an in-patient setting who have a diagnosis of stroke or late effects of a stroke recorded. Together, these do not cover all stroke-related conditions as there are a huge number of diagnoses a clinician may or may not include as being a result of a late effect of stroke.

Information on the total admissions to hospital in which the patient had a primary diagnosis of stroke and total admissions in which a patient had a secondary diagnosis of sequelae (late effects) of stroke for Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust in years 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

	Primary diagnosis of stroke[1]	*Sequelae (late effects) of stroke*[2]
2006-07	359	295
2005-06	437	289
2004-05	440	295
2003-04	424	216
2002-03	450	193

[1] *Primary diagnosis:*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Primary Diagnosis of Stroke:
I60—Subarachnoid haemorrhage
I61—Intracerebral haemorrhage
I62—Other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage
I63—Cerebral infarction
I64—X Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction.

[2] *Secondary diagnoses:*
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Sequelae (late effects) of Stroke:
I69.0—Sequelae of subarachnoid haemorrhage
I69.1—Sequelae of intracerebral haemorrhage
I69.2—Sequelae of other nontraumatic intracranial haemorrhage
I69.3—Sequelae of cerebral infarction
I69.4—Sequelae of stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction.

Notes:

1. *Quality of care:*
Data derived from HES cannot be used in isolation to evaluate the quality of care provided by national health service trusts or clinical teams. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of treatment and it is beyond the scope of HES to adequately record and reflect all of these.

2. *Ungrossed data:*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

3. *Finished admission episodes:*
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients. A person may have more than one admission within the year.

4. *Data quality:*
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

5. *Assessing growth through time:*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Prescriptions: Contraceptives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what pilot schemes on dispensing of the morning-after pill through pharmacies have taken place in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the outcomes of each scheme. [245079]

Dawn Primarolo: These are local schemes and no national assessment has been made.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of exception reporting in each category of reason there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [244156]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Social Services: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1516W, on social services: coastal areas, (1) if he will make it his policy centrally to collect data at *(a)* town and *(b)* ward level on out-of-county placements of vulnerable adults in the principal seaside towns of England and Wales; [244443]

(2) if he will consider the merits of collecting statistics on the placements of vulnerable people by social services departments, broken down by *(a)* county, *(b)* town, *(c)* ward and *(d)* lower super output area. [244991]

Phil Hope: The requirements for statistical returns from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) were set out in the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1516W. These are national requirements made upon all relevant local authorities in England, including those areas constituting the principal seaside towns. There are no specific requirements which relate only to seaside towns, nor do these requirements extend to local authorities in Wales.

The current data requirements include information on out-of-area placements in residential care. Following the implementation of the new Local Performance Framework for Local Authorities and their Partners from April 2008, the Department has undertaken a review of its national adult social care collections. This review, facilitated by the NHS Information Centre for Health and social care, has been wide ranging and culminated in a public consultation on proposals for the future, conducted under national statistics rules. One of the recommendations of the review was to consider how the current information on out-of-area placements can be better collected to achieve an improved information resource for local partners. This is currently in discussion with partners, including the Commission for Social Care Inspection, to determine options for improving this data source, and further recommendations are expected to be made in 2009.

Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent considerations his Department has given to measures to tackle tuberculosis infection in the UK. [244283]

Dawn Primarolo: In June 2007 we launched a national TB Toolkit to support commissioning of tuberculosis (TB) services tailored to local needs, and reinforce the need for providers to follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines on treatment of tuberculosis. The NICE guidelines make specific recommendations about active screening for TB infection among high-risk groups including homeless people and prisoners and among people who have been in close contact with someone with TB.

London TB services are funded by the Department to run a pilot study using a mobile X-ray unit (MXU) to screen homeless hostels and prisons. Evaluation of the pilot showed the MXU to be an effective case-finding tool among these populations. In addition, since October 2007 the Department has funded Find and Treat, a small multidisciplinary team of tuberculosis nurse specialists, social and outreach workers, to provide practical support and advice to TB services across London for around 300 patients with complex and challenging needs. Support includes: locating and re-engaging patients who have been lost to follow-up care; providing links between prison health and the MXU to NHS tuberculosis services; organising case conferences and directly observed therapy (DOT) partnerships and engaging relevant allied support services in the community to help patients complete treatment.

The Home Office has a long standing policy of referring passengers from countries with a high risk of TB seeking entry to the UK for more than six months for medical examination at ports of entry. Heathrow and Gatwick have X-ray machines, and any chest X-ray consistent with TB leads to the person being referred to local services.

There is also a programme of pre-entry screening for TB in some countries before a visa can be obtained (Bangladesh, Sudan, Tanzania, Pakistan, Thailand, Kenya and Ghana).

The prevention of tuberculosis relies on the early diagnosis and treatment of those with active disease so that they do not infect others and we are keeping emerging technologies for detection of latent disease under close review.

Vioxx

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 779, on cardio-vascular incidents, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the manufacturer of Vioxx fulfils its responsibilities to people in the UK whose health has been seriously affected after taking the drug; and if he will make a statement. [244046]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health, on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 950.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Deprivation Indicators

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average score and rank of multiple deprivation was for each constituency in England according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007. [245143]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Statistics from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 have not been produced for parliamentary constituencies.

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) were constructed at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are consistent in size and over time, and allow identification of small pockets of deprivation. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. Because parliamentary constituencies are relatively large and subject to boundary change, indices are not produced at this geographical level.

Six summary measures of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 have been produced at both local authority district and unitary authority levels. The summary measures at district level focus on different aspects of multiple deprivation in the area. The six measures are average score, average rank, extent, local concentration, income scale, and employment scale.

IMD07 and the local authority summaries can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Jobcentre Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people applied for adult entertainment industry vacancies advertised by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2003, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* gender and *(c)* type of vacancy; [242630]

(2) how many vacancies within the adult entertainment industry were advertised by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2003, broken down by type of vacancy. [242631]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: The information is not available prior to August 2007. The available information from August 2007 was published in the Jobcentre Plus consultation document, 'Accepting and advertising employer vacancies from within the adult entertainment industry by Jobcentre Plus'. Copies have been placed in the Library and the document can also be viewed at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008/adult-entertainment-jobs-consultation.pdf.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have flowed on to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) who *(a)* had previously claimed JSA within the last (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years and *(b)* had not previously claimed JSA in each of the last 12 months; [244471]

(2) how many people have flowed on to jobseeker's allowance who *(a)* had previously claimed it within the last (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years and *(b)* had not previously claimed it in each of the last 10 months. [244472]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have flowed on to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) who (a) had previously claimed JSA within the last (i) three months (ii) six months (iii) one year and (iv) two years and (b) had not previously claimed jobseeker's allowance, in each of the last 12 months. (244471).

We have combined this answer with another Parliamentary Question asking how many people have flowed on to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) who (a) had previously claimed JSA within the last (i) three months (ii) six months (iii) one year and (iv) two years and (b) had not previously claimed it, in each of the last 10 months. (244472).

Table 1, attached, shows the estimate of the number of people who have flowed on to JSA in each of the last 12 months, by the length of time since they last claimed and also the number of people who have never previously claimed. These estimates have been derived using data from the Jobcentre Plus 5% cohort. This is a sample of the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1: Number of onflows[1] to jobseeker's allowance by length of time since previous claim, by month

Not seasonally adjusted

	Length of time since previous claim				
Month of onflow	*Up to 3 months*	*Up to 6 months*	*Up to 1 year*	*Up to 2 years*	*Never claimed*
2007					
November	67.4	84.3	101.9	114.2	31.2
December[2]	81.3	102.1	123.8	139.1	35.4
2008					
January	63.6	79.9	96.0	107.4	27.5
February[2]	85.4	112.1	137.4	155.7	48.4
March	64.6	83.9	100.8	114.8	33.6
April	62.3	77.7	93.6	106.6	33.3
May	68.6	81.7	97.3	110.7	31.4
June[2]	90.7	110.6	131.5	148.3	43.8
July	73.6	91.0	109.2	126.4	53.2
August[2]	93.9	118.2	140.6	161.2	62.7
September	76.9	104.0	111.3	126.3	53.1
October	80.7	101.3	118.4	136.3	53.3

[1] Number of claims started within month.

[2] Five week month (remaining months are 4 week months).

[3] Estimates are based on a 5 per cent. sample of computerised claims. All claims have been weighted by a factor of 20 to represent the population.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus 5 per cent. Cohort[2]

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of the housing cost premium paid out to pension credit claimants in each year since it was introduced. [240526]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 26 November, *Official Report*, column 2012W.

Pension Credit: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum amount payable as additional housing cost premium of pension credit was in each year since its introduction. [241008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to her on 26 November, *Official Report*, column 2012W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension credit claimants have received a premium for each type of housing cost in each year since pension credit was introduced. [241009]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to her on 26 November, *Official Report*, column 2011W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount has been of the additional housing cost premium of pension credit which has been paid to claimants in receipt of it in each year since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [241010]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to her on 26 November, *Official Report*, column 2012W.

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average amount of overpaid pension credits per case was clawed back by his Department in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [240520]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Minister of State, (Mr. McNulty) gave the hon. Member on 26 November, *Official Report*, volume 170, column 2014W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in overpaid pension credits was recovered by his Department in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 and *(b)* year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [240523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Minister of State, (Mr. McNulty) gave the hon. Member on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, volume 170, column 2014W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much overpaid pension credit was reimbursed to his Department on average as a result of cases taken to court over repayment in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [241028]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, volume 170, column 2014W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have been taken to court by his Department to seek repayment of overpaid pension credits in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 and *(b)* of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [241314]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, volume 482, column 918W.

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on free *(a)* school meals and *(b)* prescriptions for benefit claimants (i) in total and (ii) on average per benefit claimant in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242188]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families do not collect information on how much is spent on free school meals.

Prescription data are not collected about patients, only about the number and cost of items dispensed.

The information available in respect of England is in the following table.

	Total number of items dispensed to benefit recipients[1] (Thousand)	*Total net ingredient cost of items dispensed (£000)*
2003	73,340.6	823,208.9
2004	77,347.4	900,858.5
2005	78,540.7	888,754.0
2006	80,525.8	913,349.2
2007	80,947.6	899,138.0

[1] These items are dispensed to recipients of the following (and their partner if they have one) who are automatically entitled to free prescriptions:
income support;
income-based jobseeker's allowance;
working tax credit with child tax credit or working tax credit that includes a disability or severe disability element and in either case whose annual gross taxable income is below a specified amount; and
pension credit guarantee credit (applies only to partners under 60 as recipients are exempt on age grounds) (from October 2003, previously minimum income guarantee included with income support).

Notes:

1. The number of items is derived from a one in 20 sample of all exempt items dispensed in the community in England by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors.
2. The cost is in respect of net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for each of the last five years.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) Data

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of day care provision in each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [244791]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this information by local authority. However, the Department's 2007 National Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey shows that the national average that parents pay for a full day care place is £3.20 per hour.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care places are *(a)* available in each region and *(b)* planned in the next three years; and how many lone parents in each region have at least one child under seven years of age. [244966]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on child care places available by region is shown in the table.

Table 1: Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care in each Government office region in England, position at 31 March 2008

Type of care	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Childminders*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*Al.*
England	622,500	210,800	298,600	369,200	47,900	1,549,100
East of England	59,000	34,800	34,900	34,100	5,800	168,600
East Midlands	55,000	21,700	26,900	25,400	4,100	133,200
Inner London	38,200	5,800	12,200	26,500	4,200	86,900
Outer London	45,100	19,100	29,200	34,500	3,500	131,400
North East	27,400	5,400	15,800	15,000	4,500	68,100
North West England	94,500	21,700	36,000	67,500	6,800	226,400
South East England	108,400	46,000	57,200	63,200	6,600	281,400

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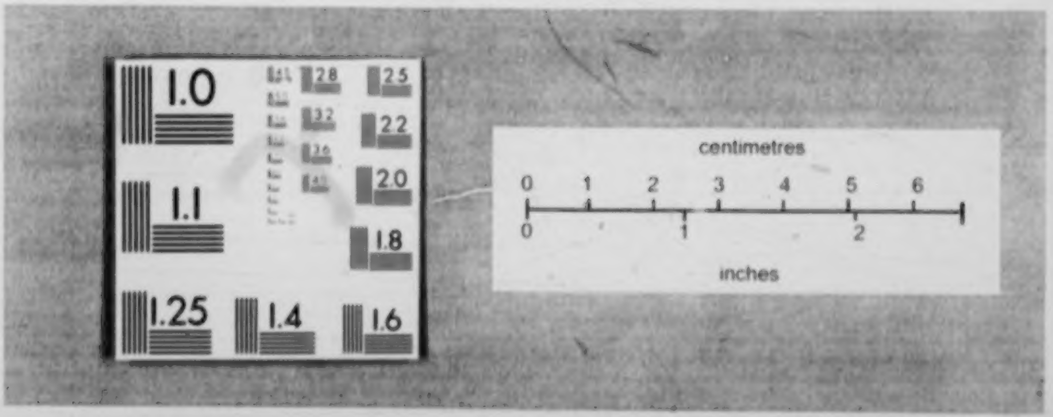

Table 1: Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care in each Government office region in England, position at 31 March 2008

Type of care	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Childminders*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*All*
South West England	63,600	24,900	28,900	31,100	4,400	152,800
West Midlands	72,300	17,100	27,600	44,000	4,100	165,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	59,100	14,300	29,900	28,000	3,900	135,100

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100. *Source:* Ofsted.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, August 2008", which is available on their website:

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

The Office for National Statistics collects information on lone parent families with a child under seven years old. The available information is shown in the table.

Lone parent families where the youngest child is under seven years old by GOR UK 2007

Region	*Number (Thousand)*
North East	37
North West (including Merseyside)	98
Yorkshire and Humberside	63
East Midlands	51
West Midlands	71
Eastern	56
London	138
South East	79
South West	51
Wales	43
Scotland	64
Northern Ireland	28
Total[1]	780

[1] As with all figures in the table, the total is rounded to the nearest thousand. *Source:* Annual Population Survey.

Children: Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what aspects of the Children's Health Strategy his Department will have responsibility. [245274]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is jointly responsible, with the Department of Health, for promoting the health of all children and young people: this has been the case since the Machinery of Government changes in June 2007 announced the creation of the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Child Health Strategy is being developed jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health and will set out the Government's long-term strategy to support children's and families' health. It will be aimed at the NHS, Local Government and partnership organisations, and build on the work already being delivered through Every Child Matters and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. It will consider and clarify how health services, working with schools and other partners, can work better to improve children's and young people's health through ages 0 to 19. It has been developed through widespread consultation with service providers, commissioners, and other stakeholders, and with young people and parents, and will fulfil a commitment in the 'Children's Plan—Building brighter futures'.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations his Department has received in the last 18 months from social workers raising concerns about child protection matters in each local authority in the last 18 months. [240760]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations his Department has received from social workers on child protection issues in the last 18 months; and to which authorities these were referred. [241889]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families receives a large number of representations across a wide range of issues, mostly in the form of correspondence. A significant number relate to safeguarding and child protection issues. It is often unclear whether the correspondent is writing in a personal or official capacity, and correspondents very rarely identify themselves explicitly as social workers. It is not therefore possible to estimate with any confidence the total number of representations received, or the number relating to particular local authorities, from social workers on child protection matters.

Connexions Service: Internet

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hits the Connexions website received in each of the last five years. [244442]

Beverley Hughes: Since its commencement in 2004, the Connexions website has received a total of 21,645,903 hits. Yearly breakdowns are as follows:

Year from January - December	*Total number of hits to Connexions Direct website*
2004	1,539,063
2005	2,318,511
2006	5,277,636
2007	6,035,274
2008	[1]6,475,419

[1] To [illegible]

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with how many faith-based organisations his Department has contracts to provide public services. [244841]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not held centrally and to provide this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242921]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since the Department was created in July 2007, and up to the end of November 2008, no cases of data loss or disclosure have been investigated.

The Department takes any breach of security very seriously and, in some cases, may take disciplinary action against those who commit such breaches. Policies and guidance on IT security are available to all staff on the departmental intranet. Logging into the Department's IT system requires that staff must agree to abide by these policies.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244398]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Department, all permanent and temporary employees are salaried, and the same policies are applied on starting salary.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there has been any nugatory expenditure by his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract since the inception of his Department. [242457]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information of this kind and an answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each year since its establishment; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242122]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its creation in June 2007 to date, the Department has made 49 paid internships and 113 unpaid work experience places available. For internships, 24 interns were placed in summer 2007 and 25 interns in summer 2008. All interns were university-level students in Cabinet Office programmes. For work experience, 40 year 10 and 11 students and 11 graduates were placed from 28 July to December 2007 and 55 year 10 and 11 students and seven graduates were placed from January to December 2008. Information on work experience hours is not collected centrally but it is expected that students and graduates would work similar hours to full-time staff on the relevant site, in or outside of London, and at the discretion of the team to which they have been assigned. Information on students who did not complete their set period of work experience is not collected centrally and, along with the work hours worked, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Payments for internships for 2007 and 2008 were £285 per week in London and £245 per week outside London.

All interns and work experience students and graduates undertook a range of structured and supervised tasks to learn and feedback on the delivery of a range of projects for the Department using the core skills of Professional Skills for Government.

Early Years Capital Grant

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what means the Government intend to review local authority distribution of the Early Years Capital Grant annually over the 2008-11 spending period; and if he will make a statement. [244793]

Beverley Hughes: We expect the majority of the £642 million to be allocated through the Quality and Access Capital Grant (formerly known as the Early Years Capital Grant) during the 2008-11 spending review period to be used primarily to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent early years and childcare settings.

It is up to individual local authorities to determine how the funds available will be spent in order to meet the aims set out for the grant. The expenditure by each local authority is audited to ensure that the funding is used for the purposes intended. Local authorities are able to carry forward unspent sums from one year to the next, though not beyond the Spending Review period.

Homework

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the amount of homework appropriate to be assigned to *(a)* infants and *(b)* juniors at primary school. [245910]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Homework is not compulsory, but the Government considers that there is an enormous advantage in children spending regular periods of time on different learning activities devised by schools as part of a homework programme which supports the work they do in class.

Recommended times for homework in schools are based on good practice and set out in the Department's guidance "Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools". The guidance recommends that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in years 1 and 2 should be about one hour a week. Between years 3 and 4 this should increase to about one hour and 30 minutes a week, and to about 30 minutes a day at years 5 and 6. While we expect schools to have regard to the guidance they should also consider any particular circumstances of their pupils in determining how much time for homework is appropriate for their pupils at each stage.

Learning Disability

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding is available to primary schools in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties in 2008-09; [243268]

(2) how much funding is provided for special education schools operating in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in 2008-09. [243272]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Funding data specifically for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties are not collected by the Department. However, according to the available information, Lancashire LA's 2008-09 Section 52 Budget statement reports that maintained special schools planned expenditure in the Ribble Valley was £1.4 million and the maintained primary schools received an indicative SEN allocation of £1.9 million.

The following table provides the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in Lancashire local authority and England for 2008-09.

£

	Lancashire LA	*England*
ISB for special schools (Table 1)	35,806,000	1,505,407,000
Funding delegated to nursery schools identified as "notional SEN"	0	11,660,000
Funding delegated to primary schools identified as "notional SEN"	30,938,000	1,152,319,000
Funding delegated to secondary schools identified as "notional SEN"	29,019,000	879,302,000
Total SEN funding delegated to schools	95,763,000	3,548,688,000
Centrally retained SEN element of the school budget	23,452,000	1,185,141,000
SEN element of the LA budget	7,357,000	365,229,000
Total planned expenditure on the education of children with SEN	126,573,000	5,099,058,000

Notes:

1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.
2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. During 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the aforementioned table (Lancashire LA budgeted £14.8 million for SEN transport expenditure).
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.
4. The data are drawn from Local Authorities Table 2 of their Section 52 Budget statements. The statements are collected by DCSF under section 52 of the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998.
5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 10 December 2008.

Children's Play: Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided to Newcastle City Council for the maintenance and establishment of children's play areas in the latest period for which figure are available; and what monitoring his Department undertakes to ensure this funding is being used appropriately by local authorities. [244126]

Beverley Hughes: Our public consultations have shown a consistent and strong demand from children and families for better outdoor play spaces near to where they live. In the Children's Plan we committed to invest an additional £235 million to fund up to 3,500 new and refurbished public play areas nationally.

As part of this programme of investment from 2008-09 to 2010-11, all local authorities will be designated as play Pathfinders of Playbuilders. On average all play Pathfinder authorities will receive £2 million capital funding, £500,000 revenue funding over the course of the programme and Playbuilder authorities will receive around £1 million capital and £45,000 revenue funding. Play Pathfinder authorities will develop a minimum of 28 play areas and a new staffed adventure playground, while Playbuilder authorities will develop a minimum of 22 play areas by 2011. This includes both new play areas and significant refurbishment of existing play areas.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne was a Playbuilder LA from April 2008 and received £307,407 capital and £12,730 revenue funding for 2008-09. Newcastle has been selected as one of our final 10 Pathfinders and will receive around £2 million capital funding and £500,000 revenue funding from April 2009. Final allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be finalised in January 2009.

All Pathfinder and Playbuilder LAs progress on delivery of sites is monitored on a regular basis. Financial monitoring is done through existing processes that LAs already have in place with the Department. In addition, Pathfinder and Playbuilder LAs have to submit an Estimate of Expenditure by January 2009 setting out expenditure to date and projected spend to March. A Statement of Expenditure, certified by the Chief Financial Officer in respect of the grant for the financial year 2008-09, has to be submitted to the Department no later than 30 June 2009. The expenditure has to adhere to the Conditions of Grant, each Pathfinder and Playbuilder LA accepted, and relates to the number and quality of play areas delivered.

Primary Curriculum Review

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which witnesses gave evidence to the Rose Review into primary education prior to the publication of the interim report. [244783]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Review held an initial call for evidence which closed on 30 April 2008. 569 responses were received. A breakdown by type of response has been placed in the Library.

The list of individuals and groups who have provided evidence to the Review through meetings has been placed in the Library.

Jim Rose has chaired a group of over 20 leading primary head teachers and senior representatives from organisations such as the National College of School Leadership, National Strategies, and the Training and Development Agency for Schools. This Advisory Group met four times prior to publication of the interim report.

The QCA provided an evidence report to the Review. This drew on international studies, stakeholder views, school visits, surveys of teachers, pupils and parents, reviews of research literature and the regular curriculum monitoring reports QCA has carried out over the last 10 years.

A number of development groups established by QCA have provided input to the Review. These groups comprised QCA curriculum advisers, representatives from national organisations such as the primary national strategies, subject experts (nominated by subject associations through the Council for Subject Associations) and practising teachers. The development groups met three times over the course of the autumn.

160 primary schools are working with QCA as part of a curriculum development network.

NFER carry out a regular termly survey of a representative sample of teachers. Two surveys have carried out so far and the views of over 600 teachers sought on issues related to the Review.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received a fixed period exclusion from school in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [241881]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The readily available information is given in the table. This shows the number of episodes of fixed period exclusion. A pupil may have more than one episode of fixed period exclusion during the year.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2-4]: Number of episodes of fixed period exclusions by level of deprivation of school[4, 5] England 2006-07

	Primary schools			State funded secondary schools[2]		
	Number of schools	*Number of Fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[6]*	*Number of schools*	*Number of Fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[6]*
Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[4] (%)						
0-10 most deprived	1.665	9,404	2.03	261	31.883	13.67
10-20	1.543	7.720	1.79	305	35,618	12.73
20-30	1,695	6,803	1.51	315	36,822	12.75
30-40	1,621	5,525	1.35	372	42.673	12.05
40-50	1,673	3.958	0.98	386	42.667	11.35
50-60	1.882	3.776	0.90	387	42.146	10.98
60-70	1,938	3.102	0.78	340	34.577	10.40
70-80	1.953	2.123	0.54	335	33.451	10.20
80-90	1.851	1.874	0.49	362	32.520	9.12
90-100 least deprived	1.557	1.447	0.40	356	30.914	7.94

	Special schools[3]			Total		
	Number of schools	*Number of Fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[6]*	*Number of schools*	*Number of Fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of the school population[6]*
Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[4] (%)						
0-10 most deprived	119	2.433	23.77	2.045	43.720	6.19
10-20	108	1,323	1440	1,956	44.661	6.20
20-30	102	1.658	20.00	2.112	45.283	6.05
30-40	114	2.175	21.35	2,107	50.373	651

	Special schools[3]			Total		
	Number of schools	Number of Fixed period exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]	Number of schools	Number of Fixed period exclusions	Percentage of the school population[6]
40-50	107	1.037	11.47	2,166	47.662	6.04
50-60	92	1.453	17.80	2.361	47.375	5.85
60-70	98	1.512	1890	2.376	39,191	532
70-80	99	1,351	18.33	2.387	36.925	5.08
80-90	111	2,072	21.89	2.324	36,466	4.88
90-100 least deprived	116	1.584	17.12	2.029	33,945	4.47

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both CTCs and academies. Information is as reported by schools.

[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.

[4] 2004 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school. Includes all schools which returned information on fixed period exclusions for 2006-07.

[5] Figures relate to the number of episodes of fixed period exclusion, a pupil may have more than one episode of fixed period exclusion during the year.

[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2006.

Source:

School Census.

Pupil Exclusions: Appeals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of appeals against permanent exclusion have been upheld in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority area. [240639]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The requested information has been placed in the Library.

This shows the number and percentage of appeals against permanent exclusion which were decided in favour of the school for each local authority for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure children diagnosed with diabetes may not be excluded from education. [244284]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have no plans to bring forward such legislation; the legislative framework is already in place. Schools have a duty under part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) not to discriminate against disabled pupils and to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children and young people are not disadvantaged in any way compared [illegible] peers, this includes in extra curricular activities, such as school trips.

This, taken alongside the guidance 'Managing Medicines in schools and early years' settings' and the special educational needs code of practice provides a suitable legislative framework to help ensure that children with illnesses, such as diabetes, have the same educational opportunities as their peers.

Pupils: Diets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assisted into links between children's educational performance and their diet. [244260]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not commissioned research to examine the links between children's educational performance and their diet.

We are aware of research conducted by other organisations, including a review of literature by the Centre for the Wider Benefits of Learning (and a recent study using data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children) which has examined the relationship between diet and school outcomes.

While the Wider Benefits of Learning study on nutrition and school outcomes was not commissioned by the Department, it was published as part of the Department's research series. Both studies have found that a poor diet has negative implications for attainment.

The School Food Trust which is funded by the Department has commissioned research to examine the impact of improved food and dining environment on pupils' behaviour in the classroom.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243974]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not, at this stage, developed plans on how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of physical attacks against people working in education in 2008; [243270]

(2) how many teachers working in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England were subject to physical attack in the workplace in 2008. [243271]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Information about the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions as a result of a physical assault against an adult was published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 14/2008 "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice his Department has given to school governing bodies on assistance for parents on low incomes to purchase school uniforms, with particular reference to the range of approved retailers. [245424]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: New guidance for schools and governing bodies on school uniform and related policies was published in October 2007. The guidance advises that local authorities have a discretionary power to provide school clothing grants or to help with the cost of school clothing in cases of financial hardship.

The guidance is available to be downloaded from the TeacherNet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/u/uniform/

Secondary Education: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1358W, on secondary education: coastal areas, if he will consider commissioning research on the effect of high turnover in schools on *(a)* educational achievement, *(b)* social cohesion and family breakdown and *(c)* the effective monitoring of vulnerable children. [244992]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department publishes school Contextual Value Added (CVA) scores via the Achievement and Attainment Tables. The models used to derive these scores show that after controlling for a wide range of other factors, moving between schools at non-standard transfer times does affect attainment detrimentally, and the later the move within each Key Stage the greater the impact.

We have no plans to commission research on the effect of high turnover in schools on social cohesion and family breakdown and the effective monitoring of vulnerable children.

Social Services: Haringey

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessments the *(a)* Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(b)* Ofsted has made of children's services in the London Borough of Haringey in each of the last six years; [240485]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the way in which inspectorates responsible for children's services discharged their responsibilities in respect of the London Borough of Haringey's children's services. [241274]

Beverley Hughes: There have been a number of assessments and inspections of Haringey children's services by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) or Ofsted in the last six years. They include an inspection by Ofsted of the local education authority (published in January 2004), a joint area review of children's services by ten relevant inspectorates including Ofsted and CSCI (published in October 2006), a joint area review of safeguarding services for children by Ofsted, the Healthcare Commission and the chief inspector of constabulary (published in December 2008), a youth service inspection by Ofsted (published in October 2006), annual performance assessments of children's services by Ofsted and CSCI each year from 2005 (the latest, by Ofsted, published in November 2007), several inspections of the local authority fostering agency (the latest, by Ofsted, published in March 2008), and an inspection of the local authority adoption agency by CSCI (undertaken in 2005).

Ofsted is an independent non-ministerial Government Department performing its duties on behalf of the Crown. Therefore, it is not the proper role of the Department to assess the way in which inspectorates responsible for children's services discharge their responsibilities.

Swimming

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his estimate is of the percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils who meet the standards outlined on swimming and water safety in the compulsory parts of the physical education curriculum; [245297]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on who to consult ahead of changes made to standards in swimming under the curriculum. [245298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The 2007/08 school sport survey found that, from a sample of 1,165 primary schools, 72 per cent. of pupils in year 6 were able to meet the minimum compulsory elements of the primary national curriculum related to swimming. There are no compulsory elements of the secondary national curriculum related to swimming.

DCSF has given no guidance to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) about swimming in the curriculum. In relation to the primary curriculum review, no guidance has been given to the QCA, or Sir Jim Rose, in relation to swimming. QCA are leading in providing evidence to the review and for managing wider stakeholder management.

Young People: Public Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to hold discussions with the Department for Transport on the cost of public transport for young people in areas where there are no local authority subsidies; and if he will make a statement. [244749]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Through the joint Travel to School Initiative project DCSF and DfT officials regularly meet and are working closely on travel matters, encouraging children to travel sustainably (walking, cycling, using the bus and reducing car use).

Local authorities (LAs) have to make transport arrangements where they consider it 'necessary' to secure a child's attendance at school. Where they consider transport 'necessary', it must be free of charge. LAs have wide discretion in deciding whether transport is necessary, but they must provide free home to school transport for pupils of compulsory school age who are attending their nearest suitable school, provided that the school is beyond the statutory walking distances (two miles for pupils below the age of eight and three miles for those aged eight and over).

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 extended entitlement to free school travel for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit. Primary school pupils aged over eight have been entitled to free travel to their nearest school where this is more than two miles from their home. At secondary age (11-16), pupils attending a suitable school that is between two and six miles from the child's home, (as long as there are not more than three nearer schools) and those attending their nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion and belief, between two and 15 miles, have been entitled to free transport since September 2008.

At present, there are no proposals to make concessionary travel a statutory entitlement for young people.

Following the introduction of the national bus concession for older and eligible disabled people from April this year, the Government are spending around £1 billion a year on concessionary travel. Any extensions to the scope of the statutory minimum would bring with them associated costs and would require careful consideration of the full impacts. Research commissioned by the Department for Transport estimates that expending the statutory concession to 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education could cost around £245 million per year, while concessionary travel to all young people under 19 and in full-time education could cost around £1.4 billion per year.

At present, 48 per cent. of young people walk or cycle to school so a blanket concession could encourage young people who currently walk or cycle to take the bus. However, local authorities can use their existing powers to offer local concessionary travel to young people.

Although the Government have no plans to make concessionary travel a statutory entitlement for young people, the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 preserves the ability of local authorities to use their discretionary powers to create concessionary travel schemes for children and young people. Local authorities are best placed to know about local needs and circumstances, including any discounts bus operators offer at their commercial discretion. Many local authorities do offer some form of concession for young people.

Young, Gifted and Talented Programme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 7 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 118-21W, on gifted and talented youth, how many and what proportion of primary school pupils are participating in the Young, Gifted and Talented Programme, broken down by local authority area. [243856]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 4 December 2008

HEALTH

NHS: Compensation

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in compensation to patients by each London-based hospital trust in each of the last three years. [227824]

[Official Report, 21 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 314W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bradshaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott) on 21 October 2008. I am sorry that the table omitted to include figures for Newham University Hospitals NHS Trust. The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table and was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) website. The data cover compensation paid out to patients under the NHSLA's Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and Existing Liabilities Scheme. Further information can be found in the NHSLA's published factsheets, available on their website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications

Compensation paid by year

NHS Trust	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	9,704,939	2,558,682	3,969,003
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,153,553	1,766,719	2,694,458
Barts and The London Hospitals NHS Trust	5,962,410	1,122,305	1,669,554
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1,961,575	382,574	1,013,984
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	3,436,922	3,682,525	6,528,221
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	319,570	136,663	159,811
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	2,029,226	827,196	3,001,362
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	331,358	115,918	229,737
Guys and St Thomas Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,926,549	1,503,895	7,635,693
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	4,361,232	261,661	505,495
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	462,799	3,187,288	1,350,342
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust[1]	1,124,036	4,224,883	11,180,619
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	1,664,813	1,481,754	3,052,508
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	552,580	5,081,598	2,406,222
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	450,795	674,894	1,962,853
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	1,197,728	4,628,306	3,323,737
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	233,534	106,400	47,500
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	770,137	8,169,092	1,995,860
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	2,545,728	949,859	1,941,285
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	1,188,597	3,784,051	1,521,117
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	1,120,443	932,743	1,037,646
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	638,601	963,428	1,241,892
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	105,000	1,385,930	975,018
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1,267,101	1,064,319	3,409,945
Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	10,096	7,790	53,710
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	3,250	39,375	1,588,837
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	2,242,242	2,119,033	3,186,074
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,635,329	1,159,230	6,047,562
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	304,938	1,335,725	545,146
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	589,503	5,134,654	879,929
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	1,456,604	1,018,720	716,682

[1] Before 2007-08, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust was Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St Mary's NHS Trust.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 10 December 2008

HEALTH

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [233529]

[Official Report, 11 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 1040W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bradshaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 11 November 2008. I am sorry that the figure given for page hits was incorrect. The original answer gave the figure as 190,428,774 and the correct figure is 132,158,774.

The original answer was as follows:

Mr. Bradshaw: For the period January 2007 to October 2008 there were 190,428,774 page hits to the Department's website. For the same period, there were 18,115,842 unique visitors to the Department's website.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Bradshaw: For the period January 2007 to October 2008 there were 132,158,774 page hits to the Department's website. For the same period, there were 18,115,842 unique visitors to the Department's website.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 11 December 2008

DEFENCE

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department were informed of the allegations made by the International Committee of the Red Cross about abuses by United States forces at Abu Ghraib prison in its report of February 2004; [228972]

(2) whether Ministers in his Department were informed by officials of *(a)* allegations concerning the treatment of prisoners in Abu Ghraib and *(b)* the interim report of the International Committee of the Red Cross of February 2004 on the treatment of prisoners by coalition forces in Iraq. [229017]

[Official Report, 26 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 1550-551W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Hutton:

Errors have been identified in the fourth paragraph of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 26 November 2008. The answer contained references to UK forces where it should have read US forces and an incorrect date of 8-9 March 2004 should read 8-9 May 2004. The original paragraph was as follows:

"In their meeting on 18 March 2004, the President of the ICRC, Dr. Kellenberger, did mention briefly to my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Rammell) that the February ICRC report contained allegations concerning treatment of detainees by forces other than UK forces, although naturally the part of their discussion which covered detainees in Iraq focused on specific allegations against UK forces. The Minister discussed the concerns raised by Dr. Kellenberger with officials on his return to London. Officials had already received assurances that UK investigations were under way into allegations of abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. Defence Ministers became aware of the specific allegations against UK forces contained in the ICRC report when they read the report over the weekend of 8-9 March 2004. A copy had been passed by officials to the Defence Secretary's office on 7 May 2004."

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the then Defence Secretary on 27 May 2004, to the then hon. Member for Cheadle (Mrs. Calton), *Official Report*, column 1843, and the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames), *Official Report*, column 1845W, and by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 992W.

An advance copy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report "The Treatment by the Coalition Forces of Prisoners of War and Other Protected Persons by the Geneva Convention in Iraq during Arrest, Internment and Interrogation", dated 10 February 2004, was received by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and, on 12 February, copies were passed to the offices of the UK Special Representative and the Senior British Military Representative in Iraq (SBMR-I). SBMR-I passed a copy to Headquarters Multi-National Division (South East) in Iraq on 13 February, to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in the UK on 16 February, and posted a copy to the Ministry of Defence in London that arrived on 27 February.

On 26 February 2004, the ICRC formally presented the report to Ambassador Bremer as Head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq at a meeting attended by an official from the Office of the UK Special Representative. The proceeds of this meeting were reported by telegram to the FCO in London within 24 hours.

In their meeting on 18 March 2004, the President of the ICRC, Dr. Kellenberger, did mention briefly to my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Rammell) that the February ICRC report contained allegations concerning treatment of detainees by forces other than UK forces, although naturally the part of their discussion which covered detainees in Iraq focused on specific allegations against UK forces. The Minister discussed the concerns raised by Dr. Kellenberger with officials on his return to London. Officials had already received assurances that US investigations were under way into allegations of abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. Defence Ministers became aware of the specific allegations against US forces contained in the ICRC report when they read the report over the weekend of 8-9 May 2004. A copy had been passed by officials to the Defence Secretary's office on 7 May 2004.

The ICRC report summarises a series of working papers handed over to coalition forces based on observations and interviews during the 29 visits the ICRC conducted in 14 places of detention throughout Iraq between 31 March and 24 October 2003. Ministers had been aware of those issues relating to UK forces for five months before they were aware of the report itself. Allegations of abuse are taken very seriously and, by the time the ICRC report was published, the Royal Military Police were already engaged on several investigations into specific alleged incidents of abuse by UK forces.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 17 December 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226426]

[Official Report, 30 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 1167-68W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Woodward:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) on 30 October 2008. The answer given was as follows:

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226426]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office operates three bonus schemes—special bonuses (to reward particularly meritorious contributions during the year), an end of year bonus for staff below the senior civil service (SCS) (to reward performance and delivery throughout the year), and a bonus scheme for SCS staff which is an integral part of the pay arrangements in operation in all Whitehall and Northern Ireland Departments.

The answer includes a table which displays figures for Special Bonuses and End Year Bonuses. However, the Special Bonus figure did not include those distributed by the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

The correct table should have been:

	Special bonuses 2007-08 (paid 2007-08)	*End year bonuses 2007-08 (paid 2008-09)*
Number of staff	811	409
Total (£)	229,028	609,875

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* newspaper and *(b)* television advertisements his Department funded or part-funded in the last 12 months. [234168]

[Official Report, 13 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 1318W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Woodward:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr. Paterson) on 13 November 2008. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Woodward: In the last 12 months, the Northern Ireland Office funded 46 newspaper advertisements and one television advertisement. It also part-funded a further two television advertisements during this period.

The answer included a double counting of three advertisement campaigns. In addition the two television advertisements which it stated that the Department part-funded did not, in fact, incur any cost.

The correct response should read as follows:

Mr. Woodward: In the last 12 months, the Northern Ireland Office funded 43 newspaper advertisements and one television advertisement.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 18 December 2008

HEALTH

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children under the age of 11 years in England have a parent who has had contact with a drug service, as recorded by Drug Action Team statistics in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England. [225273]

[Official Report, 4 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 379-80W.]

Letter of correction from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 4 November 2008. I am sorry that the figure given for clients who are living with children in England was incorrect. The original answer gave the figure as 69,129 and the correct figure is 32,842.

The correct answer is as follows:

Dawn Primarolo: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data from drug services about clients in structured drug treatment and the treatment they receive, this includes whether the client being treated is a parent of a child aged 16 or under or is living with a child aged 16 or under.

The number of clients in Nottinghamshire, in structured drug treatment in 2007-08, who are parents of a child aged 16 or under, or who are living with a child aged 16 or under is given in the following table, along with the total number of such clients for the whole of England. However, these are relatively new data items, whose collection started in April 2006, and as such are not as complete as other NDTMS data, therefore the following figures must be treated as indicative only.

	Nottinghamshire	*England*
Clients who are parents	1,386	62,658
Clients who are living with children	569	32,842

It is important to note that:

clients who are parents of children aged 16 or under may not be currently living with their child, i.e. the child may be living with the client's partner, living with other family member or be in care,

clients who are living with a child may not be the child's parent, and

it is possible that there is overlap between these two groups.

Additionally, Nottinghamshire County Drug and Alcohol Action Team recently published a needs assessment on young people and drug treatment, estimating there to be 2,424 children and young people with parents in drug treatment during 2006-07 and up to 22,000 children and young people with parents with problematic alcohol use. A copy of the needs assessment has been placed in the Library. These are local estimates, not verified National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) data.

Following the focus on drug-using parents in the new drug strategy "Drugs: protecting families and communities" (2008), published by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the NTA will be working with local drugs partnerships to improve the services available to parents who misuse drugs. Partnerships will receive local information on drug treatment clients who are parents, which they will be able to use in their treatment planning to help improve local service provision to this client group.